

William Pennington

29th August 1897 – 1975

In 1901 *William* was living with his parents *William Pennington and Ellen Pennington* at *Higher Bank, Smithills*, Bolton, in a 4 roomed house. Although no longer existing these cottages, recorded as 18th Century, were excavated during the University of Salford archaeological dig in the area of Moss Bank Park in 2014.

William Snr. was 34 years of age (circa 1867), was born in Bolton. He was working as a Carpenter & Joiner. Mother *Ellen* was also 34 years of age (circa 1867) and was also born in Bolton.

William, also born in Bolton and was in 1901 aged 3 years. His sister, *Sarah Ellen*, was also aged three (and born in Bolton) which seems to indicate Sarah Ellen and William were twins.

In 1911 the family were still at Higher Bank, Smithills, Bolton. There were now three children following the birth of another son – *John Pennington* born in Bolton and aged 6 years (c. 1905). William and Ellen had been married 20 years (c1891) and their three children were living with them.

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(8412) 1/11/1916/1865 500/000 (7/18/1916) (17) Form B. 2513/1

14/9/1916

Army Form B. 2513:

RECORD OF SERVICE PAPER

For men deemed to be enlisted in H.M. Regular Forces for General Service with the Colours or in the Reserve for the period of the War, or Ex-Soldiers recalled for Service with the Colours, under the provisions of the Military Service Acts, 1916.

No. 76189 Christian Names *William* Surname *Pennington*

Corps *Signal Engineers* SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGT.

Questions to be put to the Reservist on Joining.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Christian Name *William*
Surname *Pennington*

2. What is your full Address? ... 2. *Higher Bank Smithills Bolton*

3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3. *Yes*

4. What is your Age? ... 4. *19* Years *16* Months

5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. *Signal Engineer*

6. Are you Married? ... 6. *No*

7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military? If so, which? ... 7. *Yes*

8. Have you any preference for any particular Branch of the service, if so, which? ... 8. *Signal Engineers*

9. Are you desirous of serving in the Royal Navy, if so, state your qualifications. ... 9. *No*

William Pennington do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true.

Christian Name *William* Surname *Pennington* SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Date *15 September 1916*

Place *Bolton* *W. O. Donnell* Signature of Witness.

EXEMPTION FROM COMBATANT SERVICE ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS.

If the Recruit has been exempted by a Tribunal on conscientious grounds from serving as a combatant it should be so stated here.

MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON JOINING.

Classification *Table A*

* To be filled in by the Recruiting Officer after Classification by the Medical Board.

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I approve the acceptance of the above-named man, and appoint him to the *ROYAL ENGINEERS*

Date *15 Sept 1916*

Place *Bolton* *O.C.* Approving Officer.

‡ The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit. Here insert the "Corps" to which the Recruit has been appointed.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character which should be referred to him contemporaneously entered in red ink, as follows, viz. (Name) ... (Date)

William was a joiner working in a 'Cotton Cloth' 'Bleachworks'. William junior, although only 13 years, was following his father and was working as an Apprentice Joiner, but employed by a 'Builder'. Sarah aged 12 was at school.

At the age of 19 years William joins the South Lancashire Regiment on **15th September 1916** in the 'Signal Engineers' branch. He is still a 'Joiners Apprentice' and single. He lives at home in Higher Bank, Smithills.

William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death is recorded in the England & Wales Death Index as **October / November / December 1975** in Windsor, Berkshire.