

RUFUS OLIVER

Rufus Oliver was born in 1892 in Ingoldmells. His father Thomas was a farmer. In 1901 the family were living in Skegness Road, Ingoldmells.

By 1911 Rufus and his brother Garnet were both working as Waggoners on a farm in Scremby. They were boarding with the farm foreman, Asher Saunders.

A waggoner would have to get up about six in the morning to feed the horses and get them ready. He went out to work at half past seven, when it was light. Sometimes they would go out with hurricane lamps hung on the manes of the horses, waiting for the light. They went out until twelve o'clock and then came in and had two hours for dinner, one hour of which was spent preparing the food for the horses for the night. And then they had their own dinner time. And then they went out to work again until it got dark in the winter, six o'clock in the summer, six days of the week. There were no August Bank Holidays and Saturdays and Spring Bank Holidays.

Rufus served as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery during the First World War. His regimental Number was 84375.

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

He married Olive Cheffings in 1921.