



Holt

World War I Casualty Biographies

JOHNSON, Albert Henry



Albert Henry Johnson was born late 1891 at South Wraxall, 3 miles from Holt. His father Albert was working as a domestic coachman in 1891 and the family comprised of himself, his wife Mary, (whom he had married in 1889) their son Alfred and Mary's daughter Annie Langley. (Mary had been born a Mizen and married John Langley in 1881). She was 7 years older than her husband and it's possible that they met whilst both were servants.

In 1901 the family was living at Claverton, near Bath and Mary worked as a laundress. She was now a widow for the second time, Albert having died in 1898.

In 1911 the family was living at Glenalmond Villas, Holt. Albert and his older brother Alfred and younger brother Andrew were all leather workers at the skin yard. A younger sister Eva completed the family.

Albert's Attestation papers, dated 20th January 1916, show him living at Bridge Terrace, Holt. He was a carpenter's mate and his height is recorded as 5'6" with a chest measurement of 37". His medical record showed that he weighed 124 lbs. He displayed 3 vaccination marks from childhood and on his right foot his big toe overlapped. His upper denture was worn and he had several teeth missing on his lower jaw. He was placed in category A by the Medical Board. Initially Albert served at home for one year, in the Army Reserve and then in August 1917 was mobilised as a gunner in the Royal Garrison Army. On 29th September he embarked at Southampton and crossed to Le Havre with the British Expeditionary Force. He was confirmed in the rank of Bombardier on November 30th 1917 and was promoted to Corporal on 19th March 1918. He was killed in action on 2nd October 1918.

Albert Henry Johnson was awarded:

Victory medal RGA/163B 6290

British medal RGA/163B 6290

He was originally buried where he fell then his body was exhumed and reburied at Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, Villers-Plouch, Nord, France, (8 ½ miles SW of Cambrai)
Grave Reference II G 14

In 1919 the War Office gave instructions that any of Albert's personal property and medals awarded should be dispatched to his mother, Mary and in 1920 the Chief Constable of Wiltshire was asked to confirm that Mary Johnson was the legal surviving next of kin and therefore entitled to receive the memorial plaque and scroll. Mary seems to have received his medals in October 1921.

Albert Henry Johnson, Bombardier (Corporal), 110617, 244th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

References

Ancestry

FreeBMD

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Holt Village Hall