

Connected to Codford



Lest we Forget

World War I



10271 PRIVATE

A. J. JOHNSON

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

27TH FEBRUARY, 1915

Faithful Unto Death

Arthur John JOHNSON

Arthur John Johnson was born at Motcombe, Dorset in 1893 to parents William & Julia Johnson (nee Miles). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1893 in the district of Shaftesbury, Dorset. William Johnson had married Julia Miles in the September quarter, 1889 in St Catherine's Church, Sedgemoor, Wiltshire. Their marriage was registered in the district of Mere.

The 1901 Census recorded Arthur Johnson as a 7 year old, living with his family at Knook St., in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as William Johnson (Groom, aged 34, born Draycote, Somerset) & Julia Johnson (aged 32, born Motcombe, Somerset). Arthur was one of four children listed on this Census – all born at Motcombe, Somerset – Frederick George (aged 9), then Arthur, Eli (aged 4) & Daisy Sophia (aged 2).

The 1911 Census recorded Arthur John Johnson as a 17 year old, Carter on a farm, living with his family at Stockton, Codford, Wilts in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as William Johnson (Yardman on Farm, aged 44, born Draycote, Somerset) & Julia Johnson (aged 42, born Motcombe, Somerset). William & Julia had been married for 21 years, having had 5 children, with 1 child deceased. Arthur was one of four children listed on this Census – Frederick George (Carter on Farm, aged 19), then Arthur, Eli (Labourer on Farm, aged 14) & Daisy Sophia (At School, aged 12).

Arthur John Johnson enlisted at Salisbury. His residence was listed as Codford St. Mary, Wilts at the time of his enlistment. (UK Soldiers Died in the Great War).

According to his Medal Index Card Private Arthur John Johnson first entered a Theatre of War on 19th January, 1915 in France.

Private Arthur John Johnson was killed in action on 27th February, 1915. He was attached to 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment at the time of his death.

Private Arthur John Johnson was buried in Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium - Plot G. 26. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur John Johnson, 10271, 1st Bn., Wiltshire Regiment as the son of William & Julia Johnson, of Netherhampton, Salisbury.

1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

1914 - In August 1914 the 1st Battalion were based at Tidworth and the 2nd Battalion at Gibraltar. The 4th (Territorial) Battalion were at their Annual Camp at Sling Plantation, on Salisbury Plain. On mobilization the 1st Battalion left for France on the 13 August, taking part in the battle of Mons 10 days later and followed by the retreat from Mons. The 'retreat' was a fighting withdrawal with a number of significant actions fought along that route. The battalion remained intact and ended the retreat on the outskirts of Paris. Once the line stabilized the battalion took part in the First Battle of Ypres, and Neuve Chapelle by which time they had lost 26 officers and 1000 men, the equivalent of a whole battalion. This was followed by trench duty at Hooze and then Kemmel where they remained for the remainder of the year.

1915 - The 1st Battalion spent the first few months on the Messines Ridge engaged in Trench warfare until March 1915.

War Diary – 1st Battalion 27th February, 1915

Location – Kemmel, Belgium

In trenches. Considerable shelling by enemy who searched the whole country round KEMMEL HILL. Heavy rifle fire till midnight. 2 killed, one wounded.

(Information from [The Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire)

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Private Arthur John Johnson was entitled to 1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



1915 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

A. J. Johnson is remembered in Casualties of WW1 from the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for the parish of Stockton, Wiltshire



Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium

Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery is located 8 Klms south of Ieper on a road leading from the Kemmelseweg (N331), connecting Ieper to Kemmel.

Kemmel Chateau was north-east of Kemmel village and the cemetery was established on the north side of the chateau grounds in December 1914. It continued to be used by divisions fighting on the southern sectors of the Belgian front until March 1918, when after fierce fighting involving both Commonwealth and French forces, the village and cemetery fell into German hands in late April. The cemetery was retaken later in the year, but in the interval it was badly shelled and the old chateau destroyed.

There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery and 21 from the Second World War (which all date from the Allied withdrawal ahead of the German advance of May 1940).

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium



Photo of Pte A. J. Johnson's CWGC Headstone in Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium. He has the inscription "Faithful Unto Death" on his headstone.



(Photo from Marvin & Samme Templin – Find a Grave)

