

Hindon

Men Who Served & Survived

Connected to Hindon



Lest we Forget

World War 1



388126 LANCE CORPORAL

A. J. HOWELL

ROYAL MONMOUTHSHIRE ROYAL ENGINEERS

Arthur Joseph HOWELL

Arthur Joseph Howell was born at Hindon in 1892 to parents Joseph & Lucy Howell (nee Jukes). His birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1892. Arthur's parents had married at St. John the Baptist Church, Hindon, Wiltshire in 1890.

The 1901 Census recorded Arthur J. Howell as an 8 year old, living with his family at Down View, Fonthill Gifford, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Joseph Howell (Mason, aged 48, born Hindon) & Lucy Howell (aged 46, born West Tisbury). There were 4 children listed in this Census, all stated to have been born at Fonthill Gifford – Herbert W. (aged 9), then Arthur J. George C (aged 6) & Ernest J. (aged 2).

The 1911 Census recorded Arthur Howell as an 18 year old Cabinet Maker Apprentice living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at The Down, Hindon. His parents were listed as Joseph Howell (Mason on Estate, aged 57) & Lucy Howell (aged 54). Joseph & Lucy Howell had been married for 20 years & had 4 children. The 4 children were still living at home but on this census they were all listed as having been born at Hindon - Herbert (Bricklayer on Estate, aged 19), then Arthur, Charlie (Grocer's Apprentice, aged 16) & Ernest (At School, aged 12).

Arthur Joseph Howell enlisted at Market House, Salisbury with Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers on 16th November, 1915. He was a 23 year old Carpenter, living at Hindon, Wiltshire. His next-of kin was listed as his father – Joseph Howell of Hindon, Salisbury. He was given the rank of Sapper – Carpenter & a service number of 388126.

Sapper Arthur Howell embarked on 17th May, 1916 with No. 4 Siege Company, Royal Engineers, Royal Monmouthshire as part of the British Expeditionary Force.

Sapper Arthur Howell was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 12th September, 1917.

Acting Lance Corporal Arthur Howell was appointed Lance Corporal on 24th May, 1918.

Lance Corporal Arthur Howell married Winifred Bessie Dymott on 9th October, 1918 at Holy Trinity Church, Fonthill Gifford. Their marriage was registered in December quarter, 1918 in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Arthur Howell was wounded on 30th October, 1918. He suffered from gunshot wounds to right arm & both legs. Lance Corporal Howell was operated on 31st October, 1918 & transferred to England on 8th November, 1918. He was transferred to Springburn-Woodside Red Cross Hospital, Glasgow for recuperation on 21st November, 1918. He had a 60% disability & was awarded a weekly pension from 31st July, 1919.

Lance Corporal Arthur Howell was discharged on 30th July, 1919. He was last attached to 2nd Reserve Battalion, Royal Engineers.

Lance Corporal Arthur Howell was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. He signed for his Medals on 23rd March, 1922.



British War Medal & Victory Medal

Arthur Joseph Howell died in May, 1981, aged 88 years. He was buried at Mere Cemetery, Wiltshire on 20th May, 1981.



NO. 4 SIEGE COMPANY, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (R.M.R.E.)

The Coy. greatly distinguished itself at the Battle of Messines, June, 1917. An immediate award of the M.C. was made to Capt. Crawford-Clarke (2 i/c). In late 1917 the Coy. for a short time moved from 2nd Army Area to 1st Army Area and then was withdrawn to the L. of C. for a period. Early in 1918 it was moved to Nancy in the French zone and was employed on the erection of hutting for the R.A.F. whose special task was the bombing of the Ruhr. At this time the "endurance" of loaded bombers would not allow them to reach the Ruhr from the British zone.

The late summer of 1918 found the Coy. back in Northern France, where it took part in the final advance to the Armistice line of 11th November, 1918.

This fine Coy. was recruited from the first rush of men who responded to Kitchener's call for 100,000 men - "The first hundred thousand." They enlisted for the duration of the war and were magnificent material. No.4 suffered more fatal casualties - 31 - than any other R.M.R.E. Coy. Several decorations and mentions in despatches were awarded to officers and other ranks.

About September, 1917, on leaving X Corps, the Coy. received a special commendation. C.E., X Corps (Major General Tulloch, late R.E.) wrote:- "On leaving the Corps, the Chief Engineer wishes to thank the 4th Siege Coy. R.M.R.E. for the good work they have done during the two years and eight months they were in the Ypres salient, which constituted a record for any unit, and the 4th Siege Company have reason to be proud of their fine performances. Their contribution towards the success of the operations has already been referred to by the Corps Commander, and I am glad to think that the traditions of the Royal Engineers have been so well upheld by this fine 'Special Reserve' unit."

(Low & Everett's History of the Regiment, 1969)

