



## *Holt*

# *World War I Casualty Biographies*

### **GOSNELL, Stanley**

Stanley Gosnell was born in Birmingham in 1896 to William Stanley Gosnell and Florence Louisa Gosnell (nee Jones). Florence was from Bradford on Avon and by 1901 she was back living in Trowbridge Road with her parents, Daniel & Elizabeth Jones. She had been widowed in 1899, aged 32, whilst living with her husband and Stanley in King's Norton, in the Staffordshire area. In 1903 she married John Cleasby Longstaff and lived with him and Stanley at Eglington Villa, Holt.

Stanley worked as an office clerk before enlisting at Trowbridge, into the 4th battalion Wiltshire Regiment on 17th September 1914. His papers describe him as having blue eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion. He was 5'11" tall.

Within 3 months he was promoted to Lance Corp and on 13th December 1914 he sailed to India for garrison duties. Unfortunately Stanley was suffering with pneumonia and was admitted to hospital in Poona on 27th February 1915. He spent nearly 3 months in hospital and was then returned to light duties. By 11th June 1915 he was readmitted, suffering weight loss and his face, body and arms covered in acne, a sign that he was suffering from TB. It was quickly recommended that he be repatriated to the UK. From August 1915 to February 1916 he was retained as a company orderly clerk but was discharged as being medically unfit for duty, suffering from pulmonary TB, in August 1916. His character reference on discharge stated "he is very reliable and painstaking, honest and sober". He died of consumption at his home, Eglington Villa on 7th May 1919, aged 23.

Stanley Gosnell was awarded:

British medal C/1/102A2 138

Victory Medal C/1/102A2 138

He is buried at Holt Old Cemetery, Chapel 13.2

Stanley Gosnell, Lance Corporal, 3104 2/4 Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

### **References**

Ancestry

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Falconer, Jonathan – Names in stone, 2010, Bed & Bolster Publishing, 978 0 9563423 1 7