

Alfred John Lodge



Private 1/4th Somerset Light Infantry. Enlisted at Bath, September, 1914. Joined the Territorials; left for service in India, October, 1914; left India for Mesopotamia, February, 1916. Killed in action at Battle of Deyeilah, March 8th, 1916. General Service and Victory Medals.



ALFR ED WAS BORN IN Corsham in 1897. His father William was a stone quarryman born in Chippenham and his mother Sarah Jane (née Pearce) was from Corsham. In 1901 the family lived in Gastard, and Alfred had an elder brother William and younger brothers Charlie, Thomas and Cecil. By 1911 William and Sarah had eleven children of whom nine survived – eight sons including Albert, Ernest and Victor and one daughter, Irene. By then Alfred and his brother William were farm labourers.

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

Alfred enlisted for the Army in September 1914, aged 17, and was appointed to the Somerset Light Infantry. He served in both India and Mesopotamia and was killed in action on 8th March 1916 in Iraq – he is remembered on the Basra Memorial. He served in the 1/4th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry with George Laver from Neston, who was also killed in Iraq on the same day. Alfred's younger brother Charlie was also killed in action during the war – he died in France in September 1917.

William and Sarah Jane's address is given as 5 Brocklease Place, Corshamside on Alfred's service record. They had a daughter on 20th March 1915, whom they called Neuve Chapelle.