

John Henry Fletcher

Trooper, Royal Wilts Yeomanry. Enlisted at Chippenham, May, 1915. Went to France December 3rd, 1915. Attached to 6th Wilts, 1917. Taken prisoner April 10th, 1918. Imprisoned at Friedrichsfeld, Germany. Presumed dead. General Service and Victory Medals.



JOHN FLETCHER WAS born in Corsham in 1895. His parents Frank and Emma (née Nation) both came from Somerset but were living in Wiltshire, where Frank worked as a platelayer on the Great Western Railway. John was one of ten children. By 1911 the family were living at Osmanthus House in Priory Street. John was 15 and a milk boy.

Only four years later, John enlisted for the Army and was placed as a Trooper with the Wiltshire Yeomanry; he was subsequently attached to the Wiltshire Regiment, and was in France by December 1915.

His service records indicate that he was reported missing on 10th April 1918 and was recorded as a prisoner of war. *War Records of Corsham* says that he was imprisoned at Friedrichsfeld in Germany. The record of soldiers who died in World War I shows that he died on 6th October 1918 and is remembered at the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

John's family continued to live locally – Frank was living in Bences Lane when he died in 1933 and Emma was in Priory Street when she died in 1939. Brothers Frank and Walter both served during World War I – Frank was in the Devon Regiment and Walter was a Stoker in the Royal Navy.