

Reginald Hancock



Lance-Corporal, Somerset Light Infantry. Enlisted at Bath, September 2nd, 1915. Sent to France; in action with 1st Battalion Wilts Regiment, to which he was transferred. Wounded July 1st, 1916; recovered and returned to front line. Killed in action, October 4th, 1916. Buried at Puckvilliers British Cemetery. General Service and Victory Medals.



REGINALD HANCOCK was born in Corsham in 1897 to Henry and Eliza (née Purnell) Hancock. The family lived in Paul Street in Corsham. Henry was a painter and paperhanger. Reginald had five brothers, Henry George, Reginald, Percy, Douglas, Henry John and William, and two sisters, Alice and Hilda.

By 1911 the family were living at Spring Side Number 7 in Corsham. All eight children were living with their parents

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and Reginald, now aged 14, had left school and was an errand boy at the mason's yard with his elder brother Henry.

War Records of Corsham records that Reginald enlisted in the Army in September 1915 and served with both the Wiltshire Regiment and the Somerset Light Infantry, achieving the rank of Lance Corporal. He was wounded in July 1916 but returned to the front line and was killed in action on 4th October 1916. He was only 19 years of age. Reginald is buried in the Puchevillers British Cemetery on the Somme.

Reginald's brothers Henry George, Percy and Douglas are listed in *War Records of Corsham* as serving and surviving the war. Henry and Douglas were both taken as prisoners of war. Reginald's father was also reported as serving during the war. He signed up for the Royal Defence Corps in September 1914 and was employed on home service including guarding Box Tunnel and guarding prisoners of war in various locations.