

Stanley Herbert Mizen

Private, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted March 6th, 1915. Served on the Persian Gulf. Killed in action, April 9th, 1916. General Service Medal.



STANLEY MIZEN WAS born in Corsham in 1898 to Arthur and Jane (née Bolter). His father was also a Corsham man; his mother was born in Devizes. Arthur was a carpenter living on Priory Road before Stanley was born, but the family had moved to Silver Street by 1901. Arthur and Jane had seven children: five daughters, Mabel, Nellie, Elsie, Dorothy and Violet, and two sons, Alfred and Stanley. In 1911 they were living in Coppershell in Corsham, Arthur was still a carpenter, sister Nellie was a machinist at the glove factory and Stanley, aged 12, was still at school.

War Records of Corsham details that only four years later, in March 1915, he enlisted for the Army in Trowbridge and was allocated to the 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. The regiment was fighting in the Persian Gulf and in March and April 1916 was involved in the battles to relieve the siege of Kut. On 9th April 1916 the regiment was involved in extremely heavy fighting in the Battle of Sannaiyat; on that day over 20 men from the regiment were killed, with another 37 reported missing and 160 injured. Stanley Mizen was one of those men killed – he was only 17. He is remembered at the Basra Memorial in Iraq. There were over 23,000 casualties from the attempt to get a relief force to Kut, including other local men from Corsham and Neston.