

Arthur Henry Jones

Gunner, Royal Field Artillery. Enlisted at Bath. Died in hospital at Portsmouth.



ARTHUR HENRY JONES was born in 1897 in Corsham to parents Cornelius and Caroline (née Fido). The family were living in the Linleys in Gastard and Cornelius was a general labourer. Arthur was one of ten children and grew up in a large extended family, which included his grandparents Stephen and Mary Jones who lived next door. In 1901 Stephen, at the age of 71, was still working for the Parish as a road labourer.

By 1911 Cornelius was working as a carter and Arthur, aged 14, was already working as a local errand boy. Arthur enlisted for the Army when he was 17 and was recorded as a Driver for the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery. At about the same time, in early 1915, his mother Caroline died, aged 56.

In May 1915 Arthur was serving with the Field Artillery in Portsmouth when he fell ill; he died from endocarditis in a military hospital on 17th May 1915. He was only 18 years old. He is buried in Highland Road Cemetery in Portsmouth.

Arthur's brothers Albert and Edward also served in World War I. Edward served in the Wiltshire Regiment, taking part in the Battle of the Somme, and was demobilised, but Albert, a Machine Gunner, was also killed while on active service in May 1916.

Cornelius Jones lived in Corsham until his death in 1925.