Arthur Stoodley

Private, 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted at Trowbridge, March, 1915. Served at the Dardanelles and in France. Killed in action at Wytschaete, near Ypres, June 13th, 1917, and buried at Wytschaete. 1915 Star, General Service and Victory Medals.

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ARTHUR STOODLEY was born in Corsham in 1887; his parents were John and Eliza (née Seward) and they lived in Elley Green. John was a quarryman. Arthur had two elder sisters, Rosa and Mary, and two brothers, James and George. Sadly Eliza died in 1890 when Arthur was only three years old. The family continued to live in Neston with John as a widower supported by his family – in 1901 Mary, George and Arthur, aged 14, were all still living at home. By 1911 Arthur was also working in the stone quarry – as a delver – and he and his father were living with his sister on Bradford Road in Corsham.

Arthur enlisted in the Army in 1915 when he was 28. He joined the Wiltshire Regiment and was in France by October 1915. His father died in March 1917 and unfortunately Arthur died later in the same year. He was in Wytschaete near Ypres when he was killed in action on 13th June 1917. He is remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial.

His brother George also served during World War I – he was in the Navy and was engaged primarily in mine sweeping in the North Sea.