



John Johnson (Q4 1892- 25 May 1915)

John was born in late 1891. He was the youngest son of William and Margaret Johnson (nee Sands). William and Margaret married in December 1867 in St George's Church in Old Brentford. They had nine children in all but several died in childhood. William was a fishmonger. In 1891 the family was living at the Fish Shop in Worple Road, Isleworth. In 1901 John aged 8 was living with his mother Margaret at 18 Worple Road. She was working as a domestic charwoman.



At the time he enlisted in the Army in Stratford, John was living in Hammersmith. John joined the Welsh Regiment and served as a Private in the 1st Battalion. He was sent to France in January 1915. On 28th April he was treated for an

injury on his hand in the 14th Field Ambulance and then transferred to No 3 CCS Bailleul.

In 15-21st May 1915 John's Battalion was in billets near Poperinge in Belgium. On 22nd May the Battalion marched to Vlamertinge, west of Ypres and took over trenches from the cavalry near Hooze. On 24th May at noon they were ordered to advance to support the cavalry who had lost ground due to being gassed. The Battalion was heavily shelled while crossing the canal and moving along the railway. They advanced towards the Menin Road under heavy rifle fire. There were numerous casualties. On 25th May at 8.15am they made a second advance but, lacking support from the rest of the Brigade, they could go no further. The Brigade reformed north of the Menin Road and attacked soon after 1pm. Terrific fire opened up from the Germans both from rifles and concealed machine guns. There was hand to hand fighting and the Germans were driven out of a trench. The position was held until allied artillery opened fire on the trench and forced a withdrawal. There was fierce fighting to the east of the Menin Road and fire from the German machine guns was so persistent that the Battalion was forced to fall back. There were heavy losses for the regiment that day with 14 killed, 25 wounded and 267 missing. The war diary entry says "The missing are, in all probability all killed, as no prisoners were taken as far as is known".

Among those killed that day was John at the age of 23. He is commemorated at the Aeroplane Cemetery, in West Vlaanderen, Belgium and also remembered on the war memorial at St Bridget's Church, Isleworth.

John's next of kin was his older sister, Mary Ann Bicknell. She had married Alfred Herbert Bicknell, the son of the publican at the Nelson Inn (now the Admiral Nelson) in Whitton in 1889. He became a police constable and they went to live in East London. In 1911 they were living in Wood Green.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
JOHNSON.	Welsh R.	Pvt.	10436.
J. John			
Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	J/1/04/33	616	Min A. 25-5-15.
BRITISH			
15. STAR	J/1/381.	70.	
Theatre of War first served in	C. France		

Medal Index Card for John Johnson