

John Whitworth Corbett
1892-1917: age at death 25
Student at The Society of the Sacred Mission

Family History

John Whitworth Corbett was the son and youngest child of Robert and Mary Corbett. He was born on 10th May 1892. In 1901 he enrolled in Blenheim Street School, Newcastle upon Tyne and at the time they lived at 3 Hedley Street, having previously attended St Mary's, Newcastle.

By 1911, they lived at 86 Hotspur Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, about 200 metres from Heaton Park. By the time John died in 1917, the family were living at 7 Stratford Villages, Newcastle upon Tyne which has views over the Park.

His father, Robert Corbett had been born in Wellington, Shropshire and is listed as a Coppersmith. His mother, Mary neé Whitworth, was born in Jarrow. John was also born in Jarrow on the other side of the Tyne, and for a while the family lived with Mary's widowed mother in Palmer Street.

John had an older sister, Olive Lillian born in 1891, who worked as a milliner.

Before entering the Society of the Sacred Mission, John worked as a clerk. He entered the Society of the Sacred Mission when he was 20 and studied there for nearly 3 years before enlisting in December 1914.

Military Record

John served in the Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) before being promoted to second lieutenant on 13 January 1916 with 1/8th Bn Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment). Another student from the Society, Albert Edward Gearey, received the same promotion and transfer to the Sherwood Foresters on the same day.

The undermentioned to be Second Lieutenants. Dated 13th January, 1916:—

Serjeant Albert Edward Gearey, from The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment).

Corporal John Whitworth Corbett, from The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment).

The London Gazette, 18 January 1916

He was killed in action on 14 or 15 July 1917, aged 24. He was on duty on the front line with his men when a shell landed close by and instantly killed him and two other men. A senior officer wrote

At the time of his death he was on duty and as far as I can gather he was keeping his men under cover in the trenches as far as possible because of hostile shelling. It was a case of others first and self second, a marked feature of his interpretation of duty.

His coolness and ability to endure were both qualities which have always been admired in him.

We all mourn the loss of an exceedingly good and keen officer.

He is buried at the Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, Plot 1, Row b, grave 6

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

No. 1. Dist
B No. C. 188.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

REPORT No. **9.** SCHEDULE No. **3. C.**

COMMUNE **CHROISILLES.**

PLACE OF BURIAL **CHROISILLES BRITISH CEMETERY.**

Map Reference **51b. T.23.d.7.5.**

D.A.D. OF G.R. & E.
15th FRANCE
51 AREA

30 SEP 1920

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 1. ROW "B".						
		UNKNOWN GERMAN SOLDIER.			E.	B/1.
2/Queens	24004	PALMER	Pte. J.	10.7.17.	E.	B/2.
1/ do.	11333	MATTHEWS	Pte. S.	20.5.17.	E.	B/3.
1/ do.	205306	FISHER	Pte. A.G.	"	E.	B/4.
1/ Lincolns.	23067	CHAMBERS	Pte. J.W.	2.6.17.	E.	B/5.
8/ Leicesters		<i>Not in Derby</i> CORBETT	2/Lt. J.W.	15.7.17.	E. 177 ⁸	B/6.

FindMyPast <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Nottinghamshire Great War Roll of Honour: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/588276/>

Forces War Records website: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

The London Gazette: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/awards-and-accreditation/ww1>

Society of the Sacred Mission Quarterly Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:
<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/>