

**IN MEMORY OF
14681 PRIVATE SIDNEY JOHNSON
6th BATTALION LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
1895 - SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 1918
KILLED IN BATTLE - AGED 22**



**POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL WHERE 14681 PRIVATE
SIDNEY JOHNSON IS COMMEMORATED ON SIDE PANELS No. 30B**

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - NOVEMBER 2022

POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL



**14681 PRIVATE SIDNEY JOHNSON IS COMMEMORATED
ON SIDE PANEL 30B**

History information

The POZIERES MEMORIAL relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names. The memorial encloses POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY, Plot II of which contains original burials of 1916, 1917 and 1918, carried out by fighting units and field ambulances. The remaining plots were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately surrounding the cemetery, the majority of them of soldiers who died in the Autumn of 1916 during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme, but a few represent the fighting in August 1918. There are now 2,758 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,380 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There is also 1 German soldier buried here. The cemetery and memorial were designed by W.H. Cowlshaw, with sculpture by Laurence A. Turner. The memorial was unveiled by Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien on 4 August 1930.

Location information

Pozieres is a village 6 kilometres north-east of the town of Albert. The Memorial encloses Pozieres British Cemetery which is a little south-west of the village on the north side of the main road, D929, from Albert to Pozieres. On the road frontage is an open arcade terminated by small buildings and broken in the middle by the entrance and gates. Along the sides and the back, stone tablets are fixed in the stone rubble walls bearing the names of the dead grouped under their Regiments. It should be added that, although the memorial stands in a cemetery of largely Australian graves, it does not bear any Australian names. The Australian soldiers who fell in France and whose graves are not known are commemorated on the National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.

(The above information is taken from the cwgc website for which they own the copyright)

**COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

In Memory Of
Private

SIDNEY JOHNSON

Service Number: 14681

6th Bn., Leicestershire Regiment who died on 23
March 1918 Age 22

Son of Sidney and Sarah H. Johnson, of Top Rd., Griffydam,
Leicester.

Remembered with Honour

POZIERES MEMORIAL

Panel 29 and 30.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

14681 PRIVATE SIDNEY JOHNSON BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sidney Johnson junior was born on the 3rd of September 1895 to Sidney senior (a coal miner b.1869) and Sarah Harriet Johnson (b.1870) who were living on Vinegar Hill (also referred to as Brand Hill). In 1901, his siblings are given as - Constance E (10), Ethel H (8), Benjamin H (7), John S (5), Wilfred T (4), Mary H (2) and Joseph O (41/2 months). In 1911, Sidney junior's occupation is given as a "Carter at the Lime Works" (presumably Cloud Hill).

By 1921, Sidney senior (an out of work coal miner hewer at Snibston Colliery) and his wife Sarah, had moved to live on the Top Road, Griffydam and they had two further children living with them - Mary Hilda (b.1899), an out of work hosiery worker and Frederick (b.1905), a farm labourer and carter at H. Martin, Brand Farm, Griffydam. This made a total of 10 children.

Wilfred Thomas (b.1897), was still living with them, and was an out of work coal miner hewer at Snibston Colliery. Wilfred enlisted in 1916, but, being in a reserved occupation as a coal miner, he was not called up till 1918. He then served in France with the Grenadier Guards.

The 1939 register confirmed Sidney Senior and Sarah were living on their own at "Forest View" on the Top Road, Griffydam, the next property to No. 31.

MILITARY SERVICE WITH THE 6th (SERVICE) BATTALION, LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Sidney Johnson enlisted in Ashby de la Zouch on the 5th of September 1914 at the young age of 19 when his occupation as a "Quarryman" was given, and he was medically classified as A1. His service records confirm him as a machine gunner and we can see later at the time of his death, he was a Lewis Gunner.

The 6th (service) Battalion of the Leicestershire regiment was raised at Leicester in 1914 as part of Kitchener's first New Army (K1). They joined the 110th Brigade, 37th Division. Following training at Borden in Hampshire they proceeded to France on the 29th July 1915 to join the "British Expeditionary Force" where shortly after, they transferred with the 110th brigade to the 21st Division.

The battles of the Somme took place from 1st July to 18th November 1916 and Private Sidney Johnson was reported as being wounded by gunshot in action on the 25th September 1916 which was probably during the battle of Morval which took place from the 25th September to the 28th during which the Division captured Geudecourt. Following treatment at the British base hospital at Etaples in the Pas de Calais department in northern France, he was transferred back to the UK on the hospital ship Carisbrooke Castle.

After recovery in the UK, he returned to France on the 2nd of February 1917 to join his old unit. At the time of the German Offensive (Kaiser's Battle) which commenced on the 21st March 1918, following Americas entry into the war in April 1917, the Germans had realised that their only remaining chance of victory was to defeat the Allies before the United States could ship soldiers across the Atlantic and fully deploy its resources. The German Army had gained a temporary advantage in numbers as nearly 50 divisions had been freed by the Russian defeat and withdrawal from the war with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

There were four German offensives, codenamed *Michael*, *Georgette*, *Gneisenau*, and *Blücher-Yorck*. *Michael* was the main attack, which was intended to break through the Allied lines, outflank the British forces (which held the front from the Somme River to the English Channel) and defeat the British Army. Once that was achieved, it was hoped that the French would seek armistice terms.

The 6th Battalion was located at Epheny in the Flequieres salient south of west of Cambrai. Being surrounded by massive bombardment and having to withdraw, they lost 17 men killed in action on the 21st of March, 31 on the 22nd and 19 on the 23rd of which Private Sidney Johnson was one.

Report from the Coalville Times dated Friday June 6th 1919:-

SOLDIERS DEATH

Private Sidney Johnson, 14681,, [Lewis Gunner](#), 6th Leicestershire Regiment, who was reported missing since March 1918 is now officially reported to have died on March 23rd or later.

**WAR MEMORIAL ON WHICH 14681 PRIVATE SIDNEY
JOHNSON'S NAME IS COMMEMORATED**

ST. MATHEWS CHURCH, WORTHINGTON



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF THE
FOLLOWING MEN OF THIS
PARISH WHO FELL SERVING
THEIR COUNTRY DURING
THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918
[NAMES]
ALSO IN
GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
[NAMES]
1939 - 1945
THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE**

**RECORD OF STONE TABLET No.30B ON WHICH
14681 PRIVATE SIDNEY JOHNSON IS
COMMEMORATED**

Stone No.30.B.

Brett A.	Hickin T.	Sibson A.J.
Brown A.R.	Hills J.	Simmons J.A.
Brown F.G.	Hobson H.	Slater J.W.
Brown J.W.	Holden L.	Sleigh J.B.
Brown R.H.	Hollins A.	Small R.
Bryan G.W.	Hollis R.C.	Smallbones
Burt S.	Holmes T.	R.W.L.
Buxton G.	Hunt J.E.	Smith G.
Cant A.	Jackson E.	Smythe G.T.
Carr W.	Jackson S.	Spencer S.
Clamp S.	Jackson T.	Sutcliffe F.
Clare S.	James A.D.	Sutherland R.
Clark H.	Jex W.	Tailby W.G.
Clayforth H.	Johnson S.	Taylor E.
Claypole A.J.	Jones W.	Taylor J.H.
Conington E.F.	Keeble W.J.	Thompson A.
Cooper J.	Kelly J.A.	Thomson T.W.
Corby H.C.	Kendrew A.	Thornewell C.
Cordon J.W.	Kennedy A.	Tompkins S.
Coton F.H.	Kilpin F.	Vorley W.
Crabtree C.H.	Kite S.C.J.	Wainwright J.
Deasy J.	Ladkin T.	Wakeling F.
De Gran F.	Langham F.	Ward G.H.
Dexter G.W.	Lear F.H.	Ward W.
Durham W.A.	Lindley R.	Waring J.
Edmondson J.	Long G.	Wesley W.H.

(Typed 10.7.1928).

SPECIAL LAY OUT.

23rd name, 1st column.

MEMORIAL INDEX

INDEX No. M.R.27
POZIERES MEM.
PART FIVE

JOHNSON, Pte. Joseph, 42365. 1st Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 21st March, 1918. Age 20. Son of Mrs. Hannah Johnson, of 49, Oakes Green Cottages, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

JOHNSON, Pte. Mark Robert, 41817. 5th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt. 5th April, 1918. Age 20. Son of Robert and Fanny Johnson, of 13, Trellis St., Malmesbury Rd., Bow, London.

JOHNSON, Pte. Norman, 201949. 9th Bn. The Cameronians (Sco. Rif.). 23rd March, 1918. Age 23. Son of Annie Elizabeth Johnson, of 7, Pendower St., Darlington, and the late Fred Johnson.

JOHNSON, Pte. Norman, 205375. 2nd Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 22nd March, 1918. Age 22. Husband of Rose Ann Johnson, of 86, Askew Rd., Gateshead.

JOHNSON, Pte. Patrick, 4944. 2nd Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSON, Lce. Cpl. Percy William, 204935. 2nd Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSON, Rfn. Richard, A/205349. 8th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSON, Pte. Sidney, 14681. 6th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 23rd March, 1918. Age 22. Son of Sidney and Sarah H. Johnson, of Top Rd., Griffydham, Leicester.

JOHNSON, Pte. Sidney Horace, 254335. 3rd Bn. London Regt. (R. Fus.), att'd. 2nd/4th Bn. 21st March, 1918. Age 27. Son of the late Herbert and Grace Johnson; husband of Elizabeth Jackman (formerly Johnson), of 71A, Cromwell Rd., Muswell Hill, London.

JOHNSON, Pte. (Signaller) Thomas, 43471. 12th/13th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers. 21st March, 1918. Age 19. Son of Philip and Sarah Jane Johnson, of Brough, Westmorland.

JOHNSON, Lce. Cpl. Thomas William, 34077. 8th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regt. 21st March, 1918. Husband of R. F. Johnson, of 4, Rydes Hill, Guildford.

JOHNSON, Cpl. William, 11728. 8th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSON, Lce. Cpl. William, 14221. 10th Bn. Yorkshire Regt. 28th March, 1918. Age 24. Son of Kenneth Johnson; husband of Caroline Johnson, of 10, Corbett St., Easington Colliery, Co. Durham.

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JOHNSON, Pte. William, 31124. 6th Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. 5th April, 1918. Age 27. Husband of Winifred A. Johnson, of Irchester Rd., Wollaston, Wellingborough.

JOHNSON, Rfn. William, B/201710. 9th Bn. The Rifle Brigade. 24th March, 1918.

JOHNSON, Pte. William, 268655. 12th Bn. The King's Liverpool Regt. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSON, Pte. William Augustus, 276230. 1st/7th Bn. Manchester Regt. 16th June, 1918. Age 28. Son of John Hoyles Johnson and Sarah Hannah Johnson; husband of Helena Johnson, of 42, Ogden Lane, Higher Openshaw, Manchester.

JOHNSON, Lce. Cpl. William Arthur, 57865, D.C.M. 15th Bn. Cheshire Regt. 24th March, 1918. Age 22. Son of A. Bambridge (formerly Johnson), of 124, Bower St., Bedford, and the late Herbert Johnson.

JOHNSON, Pte. William Henry, 240991. 9th Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt. 10th April, 1918. Age 21. Son of William and Mary Jane Johnson, of 220, Colne Rd., Burnley.

JOHNSTON, Pte. Charles S., 82029. 24th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). 21st March, 1918. Age 41. Son of the late John and Sarah Field Johnston.

JOHNSTON, Lce. Cpl. Christopher Henry, 10568. 30th Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSTON, Pte. George, 330268. 18th (Glasgow Yeomanry) Bn. Highland Light Inf. 25th March, 1918.

JOHNSTON, Rfn. Henry, 17971. 16th Bn. Royal Irish Rifles. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSTON, Pte. John, 30744. 2nd/5th Bn. East Lancashire Regt. 21st March, 1918.

JOHNSTON, Pte. John William, 41158. 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers, formerly (39987) Durham Light Inf. 21st March, 1918. Age 20. Son of Charles and Annie Johnston, of 21, Thistle Lane, Hebburn, Co. Durham.

JOHNSTON, Pte. Louis, 353520. 11th Bn. Royal Scots. 27th March, 1918.

JOHNSTON, Pte. Robert, 12600. 5th Lancers. 22nd March, 1918. Age 31. Son of the late George and Susan Johnston, of Rathkenny Lodge, Cootehill, Co. Cavan.

JOHNSTON, Rfn. Alexander, 16352
2nd Royal Irish Rifles.
24 March 1918. Age 23.
Addenda Reel.



WESTERN FRONT BATTLEFIELDS 1914 - 1918