Cornelius Hancock



N°19560 13th Pioneer Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. Cornelius Hancock was Born in 1878 in Chesterton Staffordshire to John and Mary Hancock. He was their 2nd of 10 children. His father was a Coal Miner. In 1881 Cornelius is aged 3 and living with 2 siblings and his parents on Heathcote Street Chesterton.

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Cornelus's Father John and Heathcote Street derelict before demolition.



At some point the family made the moth north to Durham, possibly for work in the coal mines.

In 1891 Cornelius is aged 13, one of 6 children living at 154 Smokey Row Coxhoe Durham. His father and elder brother are Coal Miners

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By 1901 Cornelius was aged 23 and working as a Coal Miner Hewer. He was one of 5 children in the family home 38 Viceroy Street Seaham Durham. (demolished)

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On the 13th November 1902 Cornelius Married Mary Rowland

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Rowland	13. Nov. 1902.	Lunder Cand	W.T.B

Ober the next 7 years they had 4 children, Ida 1903, Mary Alice 1904, Joseph 1907 and Emily May 1910.

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many Alice	do
& Emily	2 26

In 1911 Cornelius, Mary and their 4 children are living at 40 Viceroy Street Seaham next do to his parents home at No38.

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5 Joseph Haucack	Son	4										" Seahan Austria
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On the 16th April 1911 the couple had another child, a son, Cornelius.

When war broke out on the 4th August 1914 Cornelius was aged 36 but like many including his brother would offer to serve, despite being in a protected profession as a miner, the war machine running on coal.

He was attested into service on the 24th March 1915 and posted to the 13th Pioneer Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment on the 25th March with a service number 19560. He wad 36 years 5 months old and 5 foot 7 inches. He gave his wife as his next of kin.

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The job of a Pioneer Unit included digging trenches, wiring and building encampments for other troops, as well as ordinary infantry work. They were paid an extra tuppence a day. The call went out to miners, labourers, transport workers – anyone used to hard manual labour. They would earn two pence a day more than the average infantryman. Miners joined from the North East and South Wales, plus labourers from Birmingham and the 'three counties' of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

The Battalion was at Malvern when Cornelius joined them.

13th Gloucester's at Malvern date unknown.



Cornelius time in service was short lived. He was discharged 29 days after he was mobilised 'unlikely to become an efficient soldier'

The reason for this decision is not noted on his record. his medical shows no ailments that would prevent his progression.

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Cornelius brother Samuel had emigrated to Australia in early 1914 and worked as a Miner . He enlisted in November and served in France in the Australian Tunnelling Corp and the Infantry. He was admitted top hospital a number of times sick in France but survived the war.

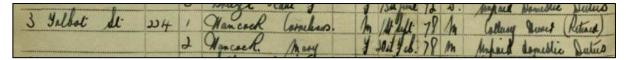
It is presumed Cornelius went back to the Mines on discharge where he contributed to the war effort through the mining of coal. He would have seen the war come to an end on the 11th November 1918 as a Miner.

The family added two more children, Annie in 1916 and Ivy in 1919.

In 1921 the family is living at 3 Talbot Street, Murton, Durham. Cornelius is 44 and an out of work Coal Miner.

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Little else is known of Cornelius life. in the 1939 register he and wife Mary are still living at 3 Talbot Street, Cornelius a retired Coal Miner Hewer.



Cornelius passed away in January 1963 aged 85