

## Harry Manuel Age 28

Harry William Manuel was born in 1891 at Melbury Sampford in Dorset. He was the sixth child of Frederick and Grace Manuel. Frederick was a dairyman and the family lived at Hazel Farm, part of the Ilchester Estate. Harry is the older brother of Percy, killed in 1918.

In 1901, the family were living at East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon, and by then had grown to 10 children, ranging in age from 16 years to 11 months.

By 1914, the family had moved to West Knole Farm.

Information about Harry's war service is sparse and requires more work to uncover and confirm his story. A medal record shows a Harry Manuel joining the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry probably in August 1915. However on the war memorial, Harry is listed as being a sapper with the Royal Engineers.

The Langport and Somerton Herald reported in October 1917 that Harry had been badly gassed in recent action in France and was in a base hospital.

Between July 1917 and November 1918, there were over 160,000 non-fatal British casualties of mustard gas which had replaced chlorine and phosgene gases. Delivered in artillery shells, mustard gas was heavier than air, settled to the ground and remained active for days or even months, depending on the weather conditions. The gas irritated the skin and eyes, caused vomiting, internal and external bleeding and attacked the bronchial tubes. Permanent damage to eyes and lungs was common and many subsequent deaths from tuberculosis resulted from gas damage to the lungs.

Harry married Gertrude Dunford in 1918. Their son Harry was born in 1919.

THE Langport & Somerton Herald

Saturday, October 18th, 1919

### LONG SUTTON.

**FUNERAL.**—The funeral of Mr. W. H. Manuel took place at the Parish Church on Wednesday of last week. The mourners were the following:—Mrs. Manuel, widow; Mr. and Mrs. F. Manuel, father and mother; Mr. A. Manuel and Miss E. Manuel, brother and sister; Miss F. Manuel, aunt; Mr. W. Dunford, of Winterborne Abbas, mother-in-law. As deceased was an ex-soldier there were five Comrades of the Great War present to pay a last tribute to a comrade in arms. There was a number of beautiful wreaths from the following:—From the Comrades of the Great War; In loving memory, from his wife and baby; in memory of their son, from his father and mother; in memory of her nephew, from Aunt Florrie; in deepest sympathy, from W. Smithers. Mme. Du Deney gave a bunch of flowers. The Dead March was played on the organ by Mr. D. Needham. The Rev. J. M. Skittery officiated.

Harry William Manuel died in October 1919. He was 28 years old and is buried in Holy Trinity churchyard. To date it has not been possible to locate his grave.