

CORKE

Harold Johnson MM

Service No: 6740



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Harold Johnson Corke

Service number: 6740

Date of enlistment: 3/7/1916

Age at Enlistment: 25 years 8 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, Military Medal

Height: 5 ft 6 inches

Weight: 124 lbs

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye colour: Grey

Hair colour: Brown

Father: George Johnson Corke

Married: Nellie M. Boulden

Life Story

Harold Johnson Corke was born in the parish of Chiswick near the town of Brentford in England on 2nd October, 1892. He was educated at the Rothschild School in Brentford, winning, in 1906, a prize for his class work when in Standard VI.

On the 23rd April, 1911, Harold disembarked the *Scharnhorst* at Fremantle. His occupation was listed as “farm pupil” on the passenger list and, by the time of his enlistment, in 1916, he was farming at Wickepin in Western Australia.

Harold left Fremantle aboard *A8 Argyllshire* on the 9th November 1916 and was marched in to the 4th Training Battalion at Codford, in England.

In April 1917, Harold embarked for France and was Taken on Strength with the 16th Battalion on the 30th April.

On the 5th September 1918, he was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery in the Field and, soon after, promoted to Corporal.

In July 1919, Harold returned to Australia aboard *The City of Exeter* and was discharged from service.

Despite no record of any injuries or hospitalisations for Harold on his World War One Service Record, he stated on his enlistment for World War Two that he had received a spinal injury when blown up on a tank during World War One and had been discharged as medically unfit – this is not reflected in his World War One Service Record.



Back in Western Australia, Harold received his Military Medal from General Birdwood on December 20th 1919 at a ceremony held at Fremantle Oval. Four days later, Harold married Nellie May Boulden in Perth.

He was recorded as forfeiting two pastoral leases (a total of 260 acres) at Williams in 1920 before settling in Yealering, where he became an active member of the Sons of Soldiers League.

Harold and Nellie had four children: Noel Johnson (b.1920), Harold Maurice (b. around 1925), Douglas George (b.1926) and Mary (b.1929).

In May 1942, Harold joined the 10th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps, shortly after his brother Eric, who was also farming in Yealering at that time.

Around 1974, Harold and Nellie retired to Perth, where he died in 1985 at the age of 92. His brother Eric died in 1987, followed by Nellie in 1989.

Acknowledgements

Clarke, Cathy

References

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