



CORPORAL JOHN JAMES POUND CHAPPELL

21st King's Royal Rifle Corps (Yeoman Rifles) Regimental No:
12685

152 POW Coy Regimental No: 573528

Corporal Chappell was born in 1879 in Dartmouth, Devon and was, in 1881, living with his mother, Margaret Chappell (nee Pound), and her parents. At the age of 11 years old, he continued to live with his mother and his two sisters, Elizabeth and Margaret and had now moved to Alverstoke, Hampshire. John's father Christopher Chappell, (per the 1881 census), was a 'sick berth steward', away from home in the Royal Navy. Christopher returned to live with the family in Hampshire in later life, but after John was married. Per the 1901 census, John was working as a gardener in Plumpton, Sussex.

John married Elsie Emily Bundy, (who was born in Freshwater, on the Isle of Wight where her father was a brickmaker), in Alverstoke, Hampshire on 26th April 1902 and they had three children. Two boys both of whom were born in Cosham in Hampshire - John James Christopher on 18th July 1903: Frederick James on 25th August 1907-. Their daughter Amy Rosemary was born on 6th July 1910 in Bitterne. The 1911 Census shows the family lived at Glencoe Villa, Brook Road, Bitterne.

John James Chappell's records show that in November 1915, he was employed as a gardener by Captain Cyril Fuller CMG.DSO. in Douthwaite Dale. On 24th November 1915 he attended a medical in Kirkbymoorside and was considered fit for service, home or abroad. He was 36 years old, 5ft 8 inches tall and weighed 152 lbs.

On 27th November 1915 he took an oath at his attestation and the forms were signed, by Captain Bethren, at Kirbymoorside. He joined for the duration of the War. He was appointed to the 21st KRRC, having previously served for 4 years as a territorial in a Hampshire Artillery Regiment.

On 29th November 1915 he reported for duty in Helmsley. Following training he left with the British Expeditionary Force to France on 5th May 1916, was appointed Lance Corporal on 29th May 1916 and promoted to Corporal in September of that year.

21st Battalion, Yeoman Rifles formed in September 1915 from volunteers from the farming communities of Yorkshire, Northumberland and Durham by the Northern Command. It moved to Duncombe Park, Helmsley and then to Aldershot and came under the orders of 124th Brigade in the 41st Division. On 4th May 1916 they landed in France.

It appears whilst serving in Boulogne and Havre, France, during 1916/17, John suffered from several bouts of dysentery and enteritis and was granted leave to the UK for a period in August 1917.

Having previously been classified, medically, as Class A (Able to march, see to shoot, hear well and stand active service conditions) in December 1917 his rank was changed to 'Acting Sergeant' and he was assigned to duties in 'stores' and classified B3 (Only suitable for sedentary work).

In May 1918 he reverted to the rank of Corporal on ceasing to be employed in 'Stores', and at Havre joined 152 P.O.W.Co (Labour Corps) and allotted service number 573528

The Labour Corps was raised in 1915 and disbanded in 1921. The Corps grew to some 389,900 men (more than 10% of the total size of the Army) by the Armistice. Of this total, around 175,000 were working in the United Kingdom and the rest in the theatres of war. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were returned wounded. Labour Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods.

When the war ended in November 1918, the Labour Corps continued their support role and were also involved in salvage work, grave and burial registration and as Prisoner of War guards.

John came home on furlough between 15th and 28th September 1918 and on 27th February 1919 returned finally to the UK, having spent a little time in the 10th Canadian Stationery Hospital in France suffering from a bout of influenza.

The War Diary for 10th Canadian Stationery Hospital in Calais reflects that there was an influenza epidemic during February 1919 and a number of deaths recorded. At the end of the month the epidemic had thankfully abated somewhat.

John returned on H M S Brighton, ([HMS Brighton](#), was a passenger ferry requisitioned from the [London, Brighton and South Coast Railway](#) in 1914, and used as a [troopship](#) and later as a [hospital ship](#)).

He was admitted to Leicester Hospital from where he was discharged on 21st February 1919. His final pay was sent to Love Cottage, Gosport, Hants, suggesting that the family had moved back to Hampshire, however there is a death recorded in Barston Ash, in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1953, for a John James Chappell, aged 73. His wife and both Amy and John jnr. died in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

John served with colours in France for a total of 2 years and 272 days.
He was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal