

Herbert Arthur GARRETT,

Born Q3, 1897 in Penge, Kent
Private M/334051

Died 7th October, 1917, aged 20
Army Service Corps, MT

Herbert A Garrett was the only child of John Thomas Herbert Garrett (1871-1933) and Edith Annie Johnson (1875-1959).

J T H Garrett was the son of Luke Garrett (1834-1885), born in Bradford Abbas, Dorset, and his wife Elizabeth born in West Camel, Somerset. Luke Garrett appears in the 1871 census as an Inn Keeper at The King's House Inn, Chilthorne Domer, Somerset.

Luke Garrett became a cattle dealer (1881 census) and the family moved to Preston Street, Preston Plunknett, Yeovil. They had two children by a previous marriage, Rose Gaul (1856-) and Ellen Gaul (1858-), and three boys of their own, George Ernest Garrett (1869-), John Thomas Herbert Garrett and Edgar J Garrett (1874-). J T H Garrett had been born in Chilthorne, near Yeovil (GRO ref Yeovil, 1871 Jan-Mar, vol 5c, p524).

After the death of their father, Luke, in 1885, the widow Elizabeth moved to 70 Maple Road, Penge, Lewisham where she was with J T Herbert Garrett, 20, single and a "Copyist at the Treasury, Whitehall", and Edgar, 17, single, a "CC clerk" (census return 1891).

John Thomas Herbert Garrett married Edith Annie Johnson in Croydon District in July-Sept, 1895. She had been born in Herne Hill, Surrey.

By 1901 their son, **Herbert Garrett**, had been born and they were living at 1 Taplow Villas, Adams Hill Road, Lewisham, and J T H G was a retail silversmith's assistant.

A change of career took place for they moved to 'Homeleigh', Holcombe by 1911 when the census records Herbert Garrett as a "fruit farmer and small farming shopkeeper". Their only child is shown as **Herbert Arthur Garrett**, born in Penge (GRO ref Croydon 1897 Sept , vol 2a, p 289).

There is a surviving partial Service Record for **Herbert Arthur Garrett** which shows that he had been a market gardener, working for Robert Garret of Bank Street, Teignmouth. It is likely that this was a misprint as there exists a partial memo from Herbert Garrett of Bank Street, Teignmouth to the Recruiting Officer and dated February 26th, 1917. The memo heading refers to the farm being Ash Farm, Holcombe. The content of the memo is faint and indecipherable, unfortunately.

With the introduction of conscription into the Army in 1916, his father appealed to the Dawlish Urban Tribunal, applying for exemption for the second time in late August 1916.

Mr H W Sparkes, solicitor and military representative on the Tribunal "indignantly resisted the appeal. Sparkes was also guardian and uncle to Etienne Geoffrey Milward (k.i.a. 02/09/1916 q.v.). "They were sending poor miserable married men to fight and trying to keep home strong, able-bodied, single men." (The Western Times 29 August 1916).

The Tribunal sat again in March 1917 to hear a case for a re-hearing of an appeal following a medical report. "The Tribunal decided not to grant a re-hearing, but they sent forward a strong recommendation that a substitute should be found. This, however, would not prevent Garrett going at once." (The Western Times 13 March 1917).

Herbert Arthur Garrett was enlisted at Grove Park, Newton Abbot in the Mechanical Transport section of the Army Service Corps on May 28th 1917, at the age of 19 and 9 months. It was noted that he was a Wesleyan and was described as an agriculturist and market gardener.

In a short service career he embarked on "Corinthia" at Devonport on 28th July, trans-shipped to "Princess" at Durban, South Africa, on 11th September and disembarked in East Africa at Kilwa Kiwimji on 19th September.

He was admitted to the military hospital at Kilwa on 4th October with dysentery and died three days later.

A telegram was sent to his father dated 10th October saying that his son had been dangerously ill and he died on 8th October. A second telegram was sent to correct this to state that he died on 7th October 1917 at No 19 Stationary Hospital, Kilwa Kiwimji. (*Modern Kilwa Kivinje, on the coast, about 200 km south of Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania.*)

His death was recorded by the Adjutant General's office, Dar-es-salaam, on 16th October 1917 as the cause being Dysentery (due to Field operations).

Commonwealth War Graves entry:

GARRETT, HERBERT ARTHUR Private M/334051 07/10/1917 Age: 20

Army Service Corps, M.T. Reinforcements

Grave Ref: 2. D. 13. DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY, Tanzania.

Only son of Herbert and Edith Annie Garrett, of Queen's Building, Teignmouth, Devon, England. Born at Penge, Surrey, England.

H A Garrett appears on Teignmouth seafront War memorial, north face. He is listed on the Holcombe War Memorial panel mounted on the west face of St George's, Holcombe.

The Medal record shows that he was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Last known address: 'Homeleigh', Holcombe

Next of kin: John Thomas Herbert Garrett, father. It appears, from the CWGC entry that the parents moved away from Holcombe to Teignmouth soon after WW1. A death grant of £1. 11s. 8d. Was paid to his father. The Probate record at the death of his father in 1933 shows that he left £5,960 – 10s – 5d and their address as Queen's Buildings, Wellington Street, Teignmouth.

References:

Free birth, marriage, death refs

Holcombe Church War Memorial panel

Notes from Teign Heritage Centre, Teignmouth

The Army Service Corps in the First World War -

<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-army-service-corps-in-the-first-world-war/>

Other refs via subscription website

census data

UK, Soldiers died in the Great War 1914-1919

Army Service Record (partial)

Bardon family tree (Ancestry)

UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

Probate Record (JTHG)