

3/7282 Sgt John Thomas Brown, 8th Devon Regiment (1870-1919)

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| Dec 1870 | Born at 52 Adelaide Street, Portsea, Hampshire; Name: BROWN, JOHN THOMAS Mother's Maiden Surname: WAKEN (sic) General Register Office Reference: 1870 December Quarter in PORTSEA ISLAND .. Volume 02B Page 397 Note: John's parents were John Brown and Susannah n e Wakem |
| Dec 1870 | Susannah Brown, John's mother, died in Portsmouth aged 30, possibly as a result of the rigours of childbirth |
| 2 Apr 1871 | Census Plusha, Lewannick Thomas Wakem, Head, Married, 65, Labourer and Local Methodist Preacher, born in London Middlesex ,,,Elizabeth Wakem, Wife, Married, 61, born in St Just In Roseland Cornwall ,,,William Wakem, Grandson, 12, Agricultural Labourer, born in North Hill ,,,Jane West, Granddaughter, 8, Scholar, born in Lewannick ,,,John T Brown, Grandson, 3 months, born in Portsmouth Hampshire Note: Jane West and John T Brown married in 1913 |
| Oct to Dec 1875 | John's father remarried to Martha Wakem; Martha was the sister of Susanna who died in 1870 (see above) |
| 3 Apr 1881 | Census Trebartha North Lodge, Lewannick John Brown, Head, Married, 40, Naval Pensioner and Gate Keeper, born in Eltham Kent ,,,Martha Brown, Wife, Married, 42, North Hill ,,,John Thomas Brown, Son, 10, Scholar, born in Portsmouth Hampshire ,,,Sydney John Brown, Son, 4, Scholar, born in Devonport Devon ,,,Elizabeth Wakem, Mother In Law, Widow, 71, born in St Just in Roseland |
| 5 Apr 1891 | Census Fivelanes Village, Lewannick Fred A Truscott, Head, Married, 27, Carpenter & Wheelwright, Employer, born in St Stephen In Brannell .. with his family and workers including ,,,John T Brown, Workman, Single, 20, Carpenter & Wheelwright, Employed, born in Portsea Hampshire |
| 28 Sep 1891 | Attested to join the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at Bodmin for 12 years; age 20 years 10 moths; a carpenter; service number C/3495; single; 5' 6.75" - 127½ lbs - fresh complexion - dark brown hair - scars on right thumb and left wrist; father was John Brown of Polyphant, near Launceston, Cornwall |
| 1 Jan 1892 | In Dublin |
| 28 Mar 1892 | Awarded 3rd Class Certificate of Education |
| 1 Jul 1893 | Awarded 2nd Class certificate of Education |
| 28 Sep 1893 | Awarded good conduct pay |
| 26 Jul 1894 | Started a 59 day spell in hospital in Dublin suffering from gonorrhoea |
| 6 Oct 1894 | Posted to Newry after leaving hospital |
| 25 Feb 1896 | Extended service to complete 12 years with the colours |
| 15 Apr 1896 | At Chatham |
| 21 May 1896 | Awarded certificate of qualification for Pioneer Sergeant |
| 16 Aug 1896 | Returned to Newry |
| 22 Sep 1896 | Promoted to lance corporal |
| 21 Jun 1896 | At Curragh |
| 21 Aug 1897 | At Newry |
| 28 Sep 1897 | Awarded second good conduct pay |
| 28 Mar 1898 | Awarded 3rd Class Certificate of Education |
| 1 Apr 1898 | Transferred to 3rd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment; regimental number was 5887 |
| 17 May 1898 | Promoted to Pioneer Sergeant |

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| 1 Jul 1898 | Posted to Malta |
| 11 Jul 1898 | Arrived in Malta |
| 20 Sep 1902 | Re-engaged to Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Malta to complete 21 years service |
| 28 Oct 1902 | Posted to Bermuda |
| 15 Nov 1902 | Arrived in Bermuda |
| 29 Mar 1904 | Aboard the troopship SS Dilwara |
| 30 Mar 1904 | Posted to Gibraltar |
| 1 Apr 1904 | Granted Service Pay Class I |
| 11 Apr 1904 | Arrived in Gibraltar |
| 13 Jun 1905 | Posted to South Africa; aboard troopship Dimera |
| 5 Jul 1905 | Arrived South Africa |
| 19 Jan 1907 | Aboard SS Soudan; medically examined for service in India and found fit if he is provided with dentures |
| 15 Feb 1907 | Posted to UK |
| 17 Feb 1907 | Posted to 2nd Battalion |
| Jul 1907 | At Bordon, Hampshire - John wrote to the Army saying he wished to supply his own dentures |
| 17 Aug 1907 | Medically examined for service in India and has been fitted with the required dentures; Found Fit |
| 4 Sep 1907 | Posted to 1st Battalion; posted to East Indies |
| 28 Sep 1907 | Arrived East Indies |
| 20 Oct 1907 | Revaccinated |
| 28 Oct 1907 | Posted to Quetta, India (now Pakistan, previously known as Shalkot) |
| 1908 | Part of the North West Frontier Campaign; operations in the Zakka Khel country; awarded the India General Service Medal with clasp for the North west Frontier |
| 24 Jan 1908 | Arrived Peshawar |
| 21 Aug 1909 | In hospital with malaria; administered quinine and tonics; revaccinated at Colaba |
| 3 Nov 1909 | Revaccinated at Cherat |
| 4 May 1910 | Arrived at Cherat |
| 20 Sep 1910 | Arrived at Peshawara |
| 15 Oct 1910 | Arrived at Bombay |
| 26 Sep 1911 | Part 1 of 1st Class Certificate of Education |
| 4 Mar 1912 | 1st Class Certificate of Education |
| 11 Dec 1912 | Aboard troopship HT Regea |
| 3 Jan 1913 | Posted to UK; arrived Shorncliffe |
| 18 Jan 1913 | Discharged on termination of second period of engagement as a Pioneer Sergeant; served 21 years 105 days |
| 7 Sep 1914 | Medical Examination in Exeter and enlisted for the Devon Regiment; service number 3/7282 |
| 7 Apr 1915 | Examined and found fit for active service before being sent to France |
| 25 Jul 1915 | Service in France reckoned from this date |
| 31 Oct 1916 | At Pont Nieppe, Nord, France [The bridge at Pont-de-Nieppe was seized by the 1st Hampshire Regiment on 16 October 1914 and the village then stayed within the Allied lines until 11 April 1918]; ordered to hospital after reporting an unusual heart beat in his chest |
| Nov 1916 | Transferred to hospital at Balleiul and then CCS and then Boulogne; sent to Marlborough Rest Camp where he was assessed by a medical board that decided he should be sent to Queen Mary's Military Hospital, Whalley, Lancashire |
| 12 Nov 1916 | Admitted to Queen Mary's Military Hospital V[entricular] D[isease] [of the] H[ear]t - aortic |
| 19 Dec 1916 | Discharged from hospital after 28 days |
| 14 Dec 1916 | Exeter, Medical Board: heart disease; age 47 yrs 1 month; height 5' 7"; dark complexion; greyt eyes; brown hair, woodman keeper by occupation; residence was Hicks Mill, Hillside Cottage, Lewannick, Launceston, Cornwall; military character was 'very good'; described as 'sober, honest abd trustworthy; he has done his duties well as a sergeant at home and on active service'. Campaigns, medals and decorations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home 7 Sep 1914 to 24 Jul 1915 • France 25 Jul 1915 to 11 Nov 1916 • Home 12 Nov 1916 to 4 Jan 1917 |

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| | <p>Service completed was 2 years 120 days; included time spent at Armentieres, Pont Nieppe, Bethune, Abbeyville and the Somme.</p> <p>His enlarged heart was adjudged to nearly equal the loss of a limb; it would not improve; totally incapacitated from work for six months; then be re-examined</p> |
| 3 Jan 1917 | <p>Report in The Western Times</p> <p>Military Honours for Devonshire Officers</p> <p>Meritorious Service Medal - 3/7282 Sergt J T. Brown. Devon Regiment</p> |
| 4 Jan 1917 | <p>Discharged; unfit for service; stamped TOTAL DISABLEMENT</p> <p>Cause of discharge: Physically unfit VDH aortic</p> <p>"Originated October 31st 1916 at Pont Nieppe. Did not enjoy his food. Two mornings after he could hear musical sounds distinctly in his chest with violent throbbings. Could not account for the condition beyond very hard work. In fairly good condition muscularly but unfitted for further military service on account of his heart disease. Distinct diastolic murmur of aortic valves, propagated down to sternum. Heart slightly enlarged on the left. There is no organic disease of the heart. Compensation is adequate for a sedentary life. The result of active service.</p> <p>Pension assessment showed one child: Beatrice May born 24 May 1902 [This was the youngest child of his wife's previous marriage.</p> |
| 8 May 1917 | <p>Medical Board awarded a pension because of total incapacity to be reviewed in six months; payment for 39 weeks of 32s 6d plus 5s 0d for one child.</p> |
| 29 Nov 1917 | <p>Medical Board awarded a pension because of total incapacity to be reviewed in twelve months; payment for 60 weeks of 32s 6d plus 5s 0d for one child; pension expired 25 Feb 1919</p> <p>Recorded new address of Ashford, Newton St Cyres, Exeter, Devon</p> |
| 20 Dec 1918 | <p>Medical Board awarded a payment for 26 weeks of 32s 6d; pension expired 25 Feb 1919</p> |
| 26 Aug 1919 | <p>Died.</p> <p>Floral tributes at his funeral included:</p> <p>In loving memory of dear cousin J T Brown from Ellen</p> <p>In loving memory of Dad from Beattie</p> <p>In loving memory of John Thomas Brown, 8th Devon Regiment, from his loving wife, Jane Brown</p> |
| 25 Jun 1920 | <p>Medal roll - awarded Victory Medal and British War Medal; also awarded 1914/15 Star having served in France from 25 Jul 1915</p> |