

BENJAMIN MOLE 1885-1914



Corporal Benjamin Mole

Benjamin was born in the last quarter of 1885 in Stoneleigh Warwickshire, a son of Henry & Isabella Mole. In 1891 the family were living in Combroke, Warwickshire. Between 1891 & 1901 the family moved to Charlecote, Warwickshire where Benjamin went to school. On the 1901 census Benjamin was a boy under training (boy 2nd class) at Devonport, Devon, and in 1911 he was serving in the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment in Bombay India where he served for 7 years. After his service in India he lived at 37 Britannia Street Coventry and was a fitter in the Daimler works. He re-enlisted in the The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, No.9773, to serve in the 1st World War but died in Belgium on the 10th December 1914 aged 29. His grave reference is I.B.6 in Prowse Point Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium. Although he grew up and went to school in Charlecote and is listed in Charlecote School's Roll of Honour, he is commemorated in Coventry. In the Coventry Roll of Honour book they say that he was born on 12th January 1881 but this doesn't match up with the census, birth index or age at death. He was awarded the Victory & Star medals & also a clasp.



Grave of Benjamin Mole in Prowse Point Military Cemetery, Belgium

The obituary notice in the Coventry Evening Telegraph on Monday 21 December 1914 stated ...

"Particular pathos attaches to the announcement which Mrs Mole of 37 Britannia Street, Coventry, has just received.

Her husband, Sergeant Herbert Mole, a much respected member of the local Post Office staff, was killed at the front on October 27, and it will be remembered that the postmen and officials attended a memorial service at St. Margaret's Church a few weeks back.

Now Mrs Mole has received a letter from 2nd Lieutenant Tillyer of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, dated Dec 13. "I am very sorry to write that your brother-in-law Corporal B. Mole was killed a few days ago. He had only been under my command for a few days, having only just come out. I sincerely feel for you in your sorrow and hear that he had lost a brother".

Cpl Benjamin Mole was one of three brothers. Sgt Herbert Mole was also killed in battle, as before stated, and his other brother is Alfred Mole, who has joined the R.M.A.C. since the war's outbreak. The Cpl served seven years in India, and whilst on Reserve worked at the Daimler in Coventry. He earned the frontier medal in India six years ago, was 29 years of age and unmarried. He had only been in France six weeks. His death was of very recent date, because he wrote a letter to his sister-in-law, Mrs Mole as late as Dec 8.

Private F. Wain, of Coventry, has written to Mrs Mole from the general hospital in France as follows, "I am sorry I could not do anything for him, but they had just hit me. About 10 minutes before I had asked him to write and tell my father that I have a nasty hole in my back from the shoulder blade". His many friends in Coventry will hear of Corporal Mole's death with deep regret."

Private Arthur Henry Mole



Private Arthur Henry Mole

His younger brother, **Arthur Henry Mole**, was born at Charlecote, the youngest son of Henry and Isabella Mole, in the first quarter of 1893, he is not on the Charlecote School Roll of Honour, but is remembered in the Coventry Roll of Honour book, where it is stated he was born 15th Jan 1894. On the 1911 census he was residing with his elder brother's family at Loxley, as their parents had died, and he was a butcher. He had before enlistment moved to Clifford Chambers and is remembered on the war memorial there. He enlisted in 1915 and died 28th August 1916 in France aged 23. His grave reference is 111G.30 at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'abbe, Somme, France. He was awarded the Victory & Star medals.

He had an obituary in the Stratford Herald of 22nd September 1916 page 8 which stated...

"Private Arthur Mole of the Queen's (West Surrey) Regiment, a native of Charlecote, has died from wounds received in action on August 26th. Mole, who was only 23 years of age, volunteered in April 1915 and went to France four weeks later. At one time five members of his family were serving with the colours, and Arthur is the third who has given his life for his Country. Sergeant Mole of the R.A.M.C is in Alexandria getting over a serious illness, and the other brother is with the Mechanical Transport in France".

Sergeant Herbert Mole

Sergeant Herbert Mole served in the 1st Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) no. 6067. He died on 27 October 1914 and his grave reference is I.L.1 in Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery at West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. (His death is mentioned in the obituary above for Benjamin)

