

## Enlistment papers for Lance Sergeant Ernest Johnson

### Images 1 and 2 Attestation

Ernest Johnson enlisted into the Machine Gun Corps on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1915 at Mansfield, giving his address as 18 High Street, Mansfield. He was 27 years and 215 days old. He was a labourer. His service number 280178 is written beneath a deleted number 31619.

However, there is a second attestation form (Image 2) with the same dates and signatures with the number 31619 indicating he was joining the Sherwood Foresters. Later records in this collection suggest he served first with the Foresters and then transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. His enlistment papers for the corps seem to have been back dated, maybe to keep the bureaucrats happy!

### Images 3 and 4 Description report

Parts of the Description Reports are badly burned so these notes are incomplete. Two description forms, as well as two attestation forms, seem to have been included Ernest's papers throughout his army career, attached to the two attestation sheets. Each was completed with the same basic information:

Height: 5 feet 3¼ inches

Girth: 33¾, expansion 3¼ inches

Distinctive marks: Scar left shoulder and middle of back. Small scar on both legs.

Next of kin: Rosa Johnson, 17 Trench Cottages, Branston Road, Burton on Trent.

Unmarried

Award of British War Medal and Victory Medal noted on second form.

### Statement of the Services:

The second piece of paper was less badly burned than the first. The additional information, which shows his initial service with the Sherwood Foresters, this form is shown in red on the table below.

"Service towards limited engagement reckons from: 21/10/15"

Corps in which served	Promotions etc.	Army Rank	Dates
Sherwood Foresters	Joined at Mansfield	Private	21/10/15
	Posted	Private	21/10/15
Sherwood Foresters	Apptd unpaid	Lieutenant /Corporal	3/12/15 4/12/15

	Apptd paid	Lieutenant /Corporal	10/1/16
Sherwood Foresters	Promoted	Corporal	4/2/16
Machine Gun Corps	Transferred	Corporal	14/3/16
Machine Gun Corps	Appointed	Lance Sergeant	15/5/16
Machine Gun Corps	BEF France	Lance Sergeant	16/5/16

There was even a form to record what clothing and equipment he took with him on transfer from the Foresters to the machine Gun Corps (**image 5**).

He took: 2 boots, 1 cap, 2 jackets, 2 trousers, 1 waistcoat and 1 great coat.

Another form, **Image 6**, raised by the pay office records, he was owed 18 days at 1/8d less 6d insurance, making a total of £1.3.6d.

### **Image 7 Casualty Form**

Original badly charred.

Embarked Southampton 16/5/16

Dis-embarked Le Havre 17/5/16

Killed in Action 11/7/16

"Signed for Officer in Command Machine Gun Corps Section  
3<sup>rd</sup> Echelon GHQ"

### **Image 8 – charge sheet [?]**

Ernest appears to have committed some, probably minor, offence in The Field, for which he was not court martialled. The details are lost in the burned portion of the form. The order to dispense with a trial was dated 22/6/16.

Scroll down to see images

MANSFIELD.

M.E. Walsh. SHERWOOD FORESTERS. (Welbeck Rangers)

(1947) W 9669-1673 500m 12/14 T. & W. Ltd.

27  
Gen. No.  
2325



Army Form B. 2505.

### SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War.)

#### ATTESTATION OF

No. 28078 Name Ernest Johnson Corps MACHINE GUN CORPS

#### Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Ernest Johnson
  2. What is your full Address? ... 2. 15 High Street  
MANSFIELD.
  3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3. Yes
  4. What is your Age? ... 4. 27 Years 215 Months
  5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. Labourer
  6. Are you Married? ... 6. NO
  7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, state particulars? ... 7. NO
  - 7A. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 7A. Yes
  8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 8. Yes
  9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... 9. Yes
  10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... 10. Yes { Name: W. Wakefield  
Corps: 84
  11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services? ... 11. Yes
- For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, Ernest Johnson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

E. Johnson SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT  
W. Wakefield C. Sq. Signature of Witness.

#### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Ernest Johnson swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honour and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Mansfield on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1915  
Signature of the Justice Murch

#### † Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that all the conditions have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 14<sup>th</sup> Coy. Machine Gun Corps, by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the purpose) on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1915  
W. Wakefield

N<sup>o</sup> 500

MANSFIELD

(1947) W 9669-1673 500m 12/4 T. & W. Ltd.

27  
Gen. No.  
2325



8H

WOOD FORESTERS

Army Form B. 2505.

# SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War.)

## ATTESTATION OF

No. 31619 Name Ernest Johnson Corps 14th Wood Foresters

### Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

- 1. What is your Name? ... 1. Ernest Johnson
- 2. What is your full Address? ... 2. 18 High St  
MANSFIELD.
- 3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3. Yes
- 4. What is your Age? ... 4. 27 Years 2 1/2 Months
- 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. Labourer
- 6. Are you Married? ... 6. ....
- 7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... 7. ....
- 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 8. Yes
- 9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... 9. Yes
- 10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... 10. Yes (Name W. H. ... Corps ...)
- 11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?  
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed, if employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. ... 11. Yes

I, Ernest Johnson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Ernest Johnson SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
W. H. ... Signature of Witness.

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

Ernest Johnson swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and bravely defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe the orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  
I am satisfied that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to.  
He has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Mansfield  
on the 17th day of October 1918  
Signature of the Justice W. Munchamp Capt R

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

The above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required conditions are fulfilled, and I approve, and appoint him to the 14th Wood Foresters  
by order of ... 203 (or other authority for the enlistment)

28078  
31679

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT.

(To correspond with Entries on the Medical History Sheet.)  
Applicable to all ranks.

Name Ernest. Johnson  
 Apparent age 24 years 215 Days Height 5 feet 3 1/2 inches  
 Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 33 3/4 inches.  
 Range of expansion 3 1/4 inches.  
 Distinctive marks Scar left shoulder & middle of back  
small scar on both legs.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.

Name and Address of next of kin Rosa Johnson, 17, New-Cottage  
Brownston Rd, Burton on Trent. Relationship Mother

Particulars as to Marriage.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

Particulars as to Children.

Christian Names	Date and Place of Birth
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES.

Victory Medal  
British War Medal

Corps in which served	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Service in Reserve not allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of entries.
					years	days	years	days	
		Service towards limited engagement reckons from <u>21. 10. 15</u>							
		at <u>Manfield</u> on <u>21. 10. 15</u>							
		<u>17</u> joined <u>Pvt.</u>		<u>21. 10. 15.</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>
		<u>19</u> Posted		<u>Pvt.</u> <u>21. 10. 15</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>
		<u>Appntd Wap.</u>		<u>S/Lt</u> <u>3. 12. 15</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>
		<u>Appointed Pte.</u>		<u>S/Lt</u> <u>10. 1. 16</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>
		<u>Appointed</u>		<u>Corpl.</u> <u>4. 2. 16</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>
		<u>Appointed</u>		<u>Cpl.</u> <u>14. 3. 16</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>
				<u>16. 3. 16</u>					<u>[Signature]</u>

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT.

(To correspond with Entries on the Medical History Sheet.)  
Applicable to all ranks.

Name Ernest. Johnson  
 Apparent age 37 years 215 months Height 5 feet 3 1/4 inches.  
 Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 33 3/4 inches.  
 Range of expansion 3 1/4 inches.  
 Distinctive marks Scar left shoulder middle of back  
Small scar on both legs.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.

Name and Address of next of kin Rosa Johnson, 17 Trent Cottage  
Branstone Rd. Bulston Trent. Relationship mother


Particulars as to Marriage.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)

Particulars as to Children.

Christian Names	Date and Place of Birth
	<u>British War Medal</u> <u>Victory Medal</u>

STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES.

Corps in which served	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Service in Reserve not allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay		Signature of Officer certifying correctness of entries
					years	days	years	days	
Service towards limited engagement reckons from <u>21. 10. 15</u>									
Joined at <u>Manfield</u> on <u>21. 10. 15</u>									
	<u>19</u>	<u>joined</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>21. 10. 15</u>					
	<u>19</u>	<u>App'd unpaid</u>	<u>Serjeant</u>	<u>4. 12. 15</u>					
	<u>19</u>	<u>Promoted</u>	<u>Capt.</u>	<u>4. 2. 16</u>					
	<u>19</u>	<u>Transferred</u>	<u>Lt. Col.</u>	<u>14. 3. 16</u>					
		<u>App'd unpaid</u>	<u>Lt. Col.</u>	<u>16. 5. 16</u>					
		<u>113 Coy B Co F France</u>		<u>16. 5. 16</u>					

**Transfer Clothing and Necessaries Statement.**

STATEMENT showing the articles of Clothing in possession of a Soldier proceeding from the 19<sup>th</sup> Res. Bn. Scot. to the Machine Gun Corps. Graham

Date of Transfer 14-3-1916

Regimental No., Rank and Name 31619 Cpl. Johnson E.

(Date of enlistment or recommencement of Service) 21-10-15.

No.	Articles not in possession to be struck out of the list, and any articles not included should be inserted	No.	Articles not in possession to be struck out of the list, and any articles not included should be inserted
2	Boots, Ankle, or Shoes, Highland, pairs	1	Cloak or Great Coat
1	Cap		Spurs, Jack, pairs
2	Drawers <u>woollen</u> pairs (insert kind)		
	Frock (insert kind)		
	„ Canvas		
	Gaiters, Highland, pairs, drab	1	Kit of necessaries, complete
	Gloves, pairs		
2	Jacket, Service Dress, or blue		
	Kilt		
	Pantaloon, Cord, pairs		
	Puttees, pairs		
	Shoes, Canvas, pairs		
2	Trousers, Service Dress, or blue, pairs		
	„ Canvas		
1	Waistcoat, Cardigan		

Signature of the Soldier \_\_\_\_\_

Certified that this statement is correct in every particular.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commanding Squadron, Battery or Company.

19<sup>th</sup> Res. Bn. Scot. Name of unit man is leaving.

T. C. Williams Spt.  
Commanding Squadron, Battery or Company.

Machine Gun Corps Name of unit

Image 6

Army Form O. 1809.

Corps for Mail 1916

for men Discharged or Transferred to M.G. Gaultman on 11-3-1916

To be completed by Officer Commanding Company.		To be completed by Paymaster.					TOTAL. ↓	RECEIPT (In case of Discharge or Transfer to Army Reserve)
REMARKS. Casualties affecting Pay, Corps Pay, or other emoluments due to a man on Discharge or Transfer should be inserted below, together with any stoppages for Clothing, &c.	Total Cash Issues and Bills paid to date of rendering this Form, also consolidated stoppages to date of discharge or transfer. £ s. d.	Pay. Rate	Corps Pay Rate	Quarterly Clothing Allowance. Date to which charged.	Balance due to clear account † subject to deduction of amount, if any, in next column. £ s. d.	For men discharged or transferred to Army Reserve. Cash issued or stoppages incurred after the form was rendered. £ s. d.		
<p>18 Days @ 7p</p> <p>6d per changed surname</p> <p>making no bill.</p>	1 3 6							

Head: P. C. Williams M.H.  
Commanding "E" Company, &c.  
5-1916

Station: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paymaster: \_\_\_\_\_  
19

\* When the man is entitled to Service Pay or G. C. Pay, the letter "Z" should be struck through and the letter "G" substituted in red ink.  
† Should agree with the total in Pay and Mess Book.  
‡ Or on transfer from One Company or Unit to another in the same payment.

Image 7

Casualty Form - Active Service

No. 1 Group, Machine Gun Corps. Regt Number 28078

Surname Johnson Christian Name E

Age on Enlistment \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months

(a) 21-10-15 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckoned from (a) 21-10-15

Promotion to present Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to present Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
or Corps Trade & Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Officer i/c Company \_\_\_\_\_

Report from whom received	Record of promotions, reductions etc, during Active Service. The authority to be quoted	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from a FB 213 or a 36 or other document
	Embarked	Sea	16/5/16	O18 2
	Dis-embarked	Havre	17/5/16	M 1
	Killed in Action	Field	11/7/16	213

for O. I. C. MACHINE GUN CORPS SECTION,  
3rd ECHELON, G.H.Q.



Image 8

No. of ( )		Date of last entry		Company Condition Sheet		Character	Pay		
Place	Date of offence	Rank	Class of Offences	Description of offence	Grade	Date of award or of order disapproving with trial	By whom awarded	Remarks	
in the field	2/16/16	1st Lieut		When ordered to Surrender as having a no the possibility of	Regt.	22/6/16	Capt. A.H. Boddan		310

Army Form B. 122