

JOHN EDWARD WHEELER, Private M2/104713, R.A.S.C.

John Edward Wheeler's name occurs on the Absent Voters' List for Combe St Nicholas: M2/104713 Pte, A.S.C., M2., living at Newtown, then a part of Combe, not Buckland St Mary. He didn't attend Buckland School, and his name can't be discovered in the 1911 Census for the area. He doesn't appear on the Electoral Registers for Buckland St Mary. No one of that name appears in the GRO Indexes as having been born anywhere locally from 1880-1900; it thus seems he must have moved into the area from another part of the country.

M2 and M.T. indicate that he was in the Mechanical Transport section of the ASC (later to become the RASC). At its peak the RASC was a huge body, containing 315,334 men and 10,547 officers. His Medal Roll Index Card indicates he arrived in France on July 1 1915 – he must, therefore have enlisted voluntarily – and was discharged into Army Reserve Class Z on March 13 1919.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
WHEELER	ASC	Pte	M2 104713
John E	—	—	—

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	Passport B-72	7294	A R. CL Z. 13.3.19.
BRITISH	Do	Do	
15 STAR	RASC/5B8	2943	
Theatre of War first served in	1 France		
Date of entry therein	1.7.15		

K. 1380.

So, despite the promising start of having his Service details, and the Roll of those awarded British & Victory Medals, we are stuck for local information, and unable to link him with any known families in the parish or in Combe St Nicholas.

However, we have now found a reference to him in a very lively account in *The Taunton Courier* of a School Concert given in February 1919:

'The programme concluded with a patriotic song and chorus "The boys who fought". The solo was taken by Pte. Wheeler, A.S.C, in uniform, and the background of children with waving flags made a very effective conclusion to a concert which was greatly enjoyed by all. It was held in aid of St Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors.'

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
WHEELER	ASC	Pte	M2 104713
John E	—	—	—
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	Ralefion Byp 7294 A R. Cl 2. 13. 3. 19.		
BRITISH	Do Do		
15 STAR	RASC/5B8	2973	
Theatre of War first served in	1 France		
Date of entry therein	1. 7. 15		

K 1380.

(To be rendered in duplicate)

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS. REGIMENT OR CORPS. ROLL No. 7294 ... B. 2294

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 301 30.8.1919 & V of 16.7.1919 respectively.

Regtl. No.	Rank	NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. No. therein: the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasp awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Despatched to Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS
M2/104710	Pte.	PILLEY	R.A.S.C. M2/104710				
		Frederick William George	Private.				
M2/104711	"	MOULT	R.A.S.C. M2/104711				
		William Henry.	Private.				
M2/104712	Cpl.	LANGFORD (W.M.)	R.A.S.C. M2/104712				
		John.	Corporal.				
M2/104713	Pte.	WHEELER	R.A.S.C. M2/104713				
		John Edward.	Private.				
M2/104714	"	TAKEMAN	R.A.S.C. M2/104714				
		Hector.	Private.				
M2/104715	"	TOMS	R.A.S.C. M2/104715				
		Frederick Charles.	Private.				
M2/104716	"	STONE	R.A.S.C. M2/104716				
		Ernest.	Private.				
M2/104717	"	PUGH	R.A.S.C. M2/104717				
		William.	Private.				
M2/104718	Cpl.	WINGGOME	R.A.S.C. M2/104718				
		Frederick.	Corporal.				
M2/104719	Pte.	MORGAN	R.A.S.C. M2/104719				
		Frank.	Private.				

Attested by the Officer in Charge of the Official Records of the Regiment or Corps.

Place: WOOLWICH Date: 2 JUL 1920 MEDAL SECTION

Signature and rank of Officer certifying. Captain. for Col. i/c R.A.S.C. records.

