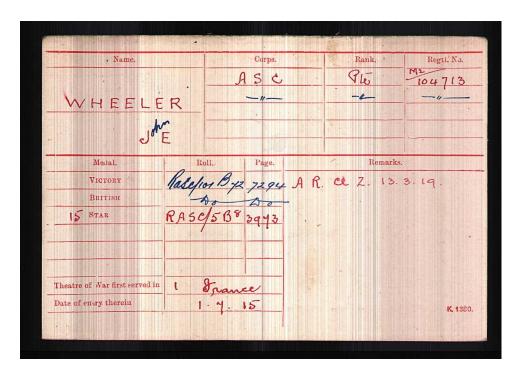
JOHN EDWARD WHEELER, Private M2/104713, R.A.S.C.

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.



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

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