

GEORGE HECTOR, Private 363616, 19th FB,ASC

George was born on August 15, 1896, the second surviving son of William and Emma Hector; William was a Blacksmith at Newtown, Buckland St Mary. The family had moved up to the Blackdown Hills from the North Curry area some years earlier. George went to school in Buckland from 1901 to September 1910. By 1911, when he was 14, he was living with his grandparents in Newtown (then in Combe St Nicholas, not Buckland) and working for his grandfather, a Licensed Hawker.

The next glimpse we have of George is in the War years. In 1917 he appealed, unsuccessfully, against call up.

‘In the appeal of George Hector (20), single, classified A, baker, in the employ of Mr Watts, of Newtown, Buckland St Mary, it was stated that a woman could not do the work. The Chairman said they could not keep a man of that age, he must go, and the appeal would be dismissed.’ *Courier*, 15.8.17

He was called up to the Army Service Corps (later the Royal ASC), but was able to follow his own trade: he is on the Combe St Nicholas Absent Voters’ List with the additional information ‘19th F.B.’ – Field Bakery.



“There is an old adage that an army marches on its stomach, and by 1914 the British Army realised that to fight even a short war in Europe it would have to provide the required infrastructure to feed its troops on campaign. Much of this work was done by the Army Service Corps and one of its key units in providing part of the staple diet was the Field Bakery. In 1914 there was one Field Bakery in every infantry division. Staffed by one officer and ninety-two men from the ASC it could produce enough bread for more than 20,000 men. Because of the nature of their work they did not set up these bakeries near the front, and many in 1914/15 were based in locations like Rouen and Abbeville, and a little nearer the front in St Omer and Hazebrouck. They tended to be static units that did not move around much.

After the Army, in 1926, George married Florence Burrige; they had two daughters. In the 1939 Register for England & Wales they were living at Homecroft in Bishopswood; George was a worker in a stone quarry. He died in 1940, killed in a road accident; he's buried in Buckland St Mary churchyard.

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REFERENCE

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1901 CENSUS

In the appeal of George Hector (20), single, classified A, baker, in the employ of Mr. Watts, of Newtown, Buckland St. Mary, it was stated that a woman could not do the work.—The Chairman said they could not keep a man of that age, he must go, and the appeal would be dismissed.

The Courier, 15.8.17

| Name. | | Corps. | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| HECTOR. | | a.g.c. | Pt. 9/ | 363616. |
| George. | | | | |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. | |
| VICTORY | a.g.c./101 B. 254 | 26/192. | | |
| BRITISH | — " — | — " — | | |
| STAR | | | | |
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| Theatre of War first served in | | | | |
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