

John Alfred Paine
Guardsman in the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards
Service number 2663308
Age 24

John was born on 12th July 1920, the son of Frederick Talbot and Mary Bessie Paine.

Frederick Talbot Paine aged 23 married Bessie Mary Fancy aged 29 in August 1909 at Lytchett Minster. In 1911 they were living with Bessie's father at Lytchett Minster. They had six children, one of whom died shortly after birth. John was the last born.

Frederick was a railway clerk. He had worked for the railway since March 1899, joining at Corfe Castle, as an office lad. He was rewarded in 1921 for detecting a fraud. His last post was at Holton Heath in 1922 as a salaried clerk at £200 per annum.

By September 1939 the family were living at East Street in Corfe Castle. Bessie died at Harrison Hospital in 1940 aged 60 and Frederick died in 1969 aged 82.

John enlisted at Weymouth on 27th August 1940. He was 5' 9 ½ " tall, weighed 142 ½ lbs (just over 10 stone) with a 34 ½ " chest, clear complexion, blue eyes, fair hair, religion C of E. He was a ball clay miner.

With some of their divisions transferred to support the new offensive in France, the Germans dug in to a number of key defensive positions and the allied advance stalled as winter set in. The final Allied offensive began early the following April and Argenta Gap War Cemetery marks the final stages of the hard fighting in Italy in the spring of 1945.

John Alfred was listed missing and then presumed killed in action on 23rd April 1945 along with six others from his battalion and is buried at Argenta Gap War Cemetery in Italy. Grave number II, E,-14-16.

Commemorated on the memorial at Corfe Castle