

**Gunner 3690 George White**  
**Age 47**  
**Royal Garrison Artillery, also**  
**L/Cpl 377444: 764th Company Army Labour Corps**  
**(Alias)**  
**George Bennett**

**Seriously wounded** 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, probably during the Lys Spring  
 Offensive

**Died Wednesday**, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 in a London military hospital

**Buried in All Hallows Churchyard, Harthill**

Not commemorated on Langwith, or Harthill War Memorials

George Bennett was the son of Robert and Sarah Bennett was born at Woodall in 1871.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1898 George (26 years) married Elizabeth Owen (21 years), daughter of William Owen, at Bolsover Parish Church. They were both registered as living at Whaley Thorns, Derbyshire at the time of their marriage.

In 1899 George enlisted as a Gunner Regimental No.:72464 in the Royal Artillery, and on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1900 he was listed as a deserter.

On the 1901 Census a Millers Carter, called George Bennett, born in Woodall, Yorkshire was listed as a border at 202 High Street, Beighton, Derbyshire.

In 1914, at the outbreak of WWI, he enlisted. There are two scenarios to consider:

1. He attempted to sign up in the name of George Bennett, but was barred due to being 43 years of age. Undeterred, he went to another enlisting station, reduced his age, and gave his name as George White.
2. He was still considered a deserter, and gave his name as George White in order to enlist, and avoid detection.

He served with the Royal Garrison Artillery in the name of George White, service Number: 3690, and when he was found to not be A1 fit, he was transferred in

the rank of lance corporal to 764 Company, Labour Corps, still registered as George White but his service number had now changed to 377444.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April he was seriously wounded, and taken to the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hospital at Arques near St. Omer in France, he was subsequently transferred to the General Hospital at Yarmouth, where he died from his wounds on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1918.

His father Robert, did not want him buried amongst strangers, so he travelled to Yarmouth and brought back his body. George was buried in Harthill churchyard, on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1918. His funeral was reported by the Worksop Guardian June 21<sup>st</sup> 1918:

### ***Harthill Soldier's Death Corporal George White***

*We record with regret the death of Corporal George White, alias Bennett, 764th Area Employment Co., who died in a London hospital (sic) on June 12th. The deceased was wounded in action in France on April 29th, and was, for some time an inmate of the Seventh Canadian Hospital in France, but, luckily, just previous to the air attacks made by the enemy on the hospitals, he had been removed to London (sic), where he passed away. He was born at Harthill and was aged 47 years. In October 1914, he volunteered his services, and re-joined the colours on the outbreak of war, and had been in France since that time. He was home on leave last Xmas-tide. He leaves two daughters, with whom much sympathy is expressed.*

*The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at Harthill Churchyard, and was largely attended. The Rector (Rev. B. Darley) conducted the service, during which the hymn "O God, our Help in ages past" was sung. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and as the bearers entered the Church, the organist (Mr. A. Harvey) played "the death of Asa" (Grieg), and after the service "The Dead March in "Saul". The chief mourners were:- Misses Lily and Sarah Bennett (daughters), Mr. and Mrs. William Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Bennett (Langwith), Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Bennett, Mr. Tom Windle (Clowne), Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lauder (Sheffield), Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bennett (Father and Mother), Mr. and Mrs. P. Wood, Mrs. Geo. Bennett (Sheffield), Miss Ethel Bennett (Sheffield), Mr. Bertram Bennett, Miss Ivy Bennett, Mr. Willis Bennett, Miss E. Bennett, Miss Newton, and many others. The Kiveton Park Branch of Discharged Soldiers Association were represented by Messrs. W. Wigmore (president), John Baugh (hon. sec), A. Redfern and F. Foster. The 100th Troop Harthill Boy Scouts joined in the procession, and at the graveside, after the committal service was read, three members of the 68th Troop Wales St. John's Boy Scouts sounded "The Last Post". Beautiful wreaths were places on the grave.*

**The Labour Corps:**

Formed in January 1917, The Corps consisted of some 389,900 men (more than 10% of the total size of the Army) by the Armistice. Of this total, around 175,000 were working in the United Kingdom and the rest in the theatres of war. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the “A1” condition needed for front line service. Labour Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods. In the German 'Spring Offensive' of March and April 1918, Labour Corps units were employed as emergency infantry. The Corps always suffered from its treatment as something of a second class organisation: for example, the men who died are commemorated under their original regiment, with Labour Corps being secondary. Researching men of the Corps is made extra difficult by this, as is the fact that few records remain of the daily activities and locations of Corps units.