

ST JAMES CHURCH TAUNTON

WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL PROJECT

Henry John Crouch

Name: Henry John Crouch

Rank: Sapper

Service Number: ?

Regiment: Royal Engineers

Battalion/Unit number: 439 Company

Date/year of Birth: c. 1896

Place of Birth: Taunton

Place of Residence: 14 Greenbrook Terrace, Taunton

Date of Death: ?

Place of Death: ?

Burial/Memorial: ?

The Crouch family lived at 14, Greenbrook Terrace. Robert, the father, was a tailor making breeches working at home and in 1911 two of Robert and Elizabeth's children, Nellie and Henry John were also in the tailoring business. There were five younger children including Clifford Robert who, according to Borough records is described as company quarter master sergeant in the 1st Battalion Devon Regiment.

The 439th Company of the Royal Engineers were attached to the 53rd Division for most of the war, serving in Gallipoli in 1915 before being re-allocated to Palestine. In April 1918 it was moved to the 74th Division, which was being withdrawn for Palestine and by July 1918 was on the Western Front in France and Flanders.

Although we have evidence of Henry John's enlistment in the Borough returns there is no record of his death in the war. Interestingly he is not mentioned on the town war memorial in Vivary Park, which also suggests he may not have died in the war. There is however a record of a Henry Robert Crouch who died in Taunton in 1988, aged 92.