

**ST JAMES CHURCH TAUNTON**  
**WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL PROJECT**

# **Albert Wall**

**Name:** Albert Wall

**Rank:** Corporal (Acting Sergeant)

**Service Number:** 30688

**Regiment:** Royal Garrison Artillery

**Battalion/Unit number:**

**Date/year of Birth:** c.1890

**Place of Birth:** Taunton

**Place of Residence:** 7 Laburnum Street, Taunton

**Date of Death:** 18th November 1919

**Place of Death:** Taunton

**Burial/Memorial:** St James Cemetery, Staplegrove Road,  
Taunton

Albert Wall was the son of James and Louise Wall. He was one of eight children, one of whom died in infancy. He had three brothers, Henry, William and Arthur and three sisters, Ethel, Minnie and Hilda. Originally the family lived in King Street Taunton but by 1901 they were at 4 Laburnum Street. Arthur's father was a Mason, and by 1911 worked in the gasworks. Albert joined the Royal Artillery in 1909 and was stationed in Malta in 1911. His two brothers, Arthur and William also served in the army. Arthur joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and died in India in 1918; his brother William joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and appears to have survived, having served three years.

Both Arthur and Albert died as a result of the war, but Albert died after the armistice after he had been discharged home. He is buried in the St James cemetery in Staplegrove Road. As a result is not totally clear as to which A. Wall is commemorated on the war memorial but as Arthur died during the war he is the more likely.

Albert joined the RGA on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1909 and initially served in England. From November 1909 to 1913 he served overseas and at the time of the 1911 census was

in Malta. He returned to England and remained there until March 1915. We are fortunate to have his pension record which gives some information about his war time service. He embarked on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1915 from Avonmouth for Alexandria and then posted as part of the 181<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery for Gallipoli. On 30<sup>th</sup> October he was wounded and treated at a dressing station before being transferred out by hospital ship to Malta on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. He was in St Patrick's hospital, moved twice before being invalided home on 12<sup>th</sup> December aboard the Hospital Ship Evani suffering from diarrhoea and dental issues. He remained in England until October 1916.

In October 1916 he re-embarked at Southampton for further field service again with the 181st Siege Battery. The 181st was in Italy in late 1917, part of the force sent by Lloyd George to prevent the collapse of the Italian Front, where they served in the battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 supporting the Canadian 4<sup>th</sup> Division.

Albert had influenza in December but returned to duty after seven days. On 7th July 1917 he acted and then was promoted to Corporal (he may have been a Lance Corporal since September 1916). He was again admitted to hospital in August 1917 for nine days. On 17<sup>th</sup> November 1917 he went home to England on leave. On returning to duty on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1918 he was transferred to the 260<sup>th</sup> (6) battery. In October / November he was twice promoted temporarily to Sergeant.

Albert survived the war and returned home on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1919. Following the end of the war Albert had married Beatrice Salter on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1918. Their home was at 7 Laburnum Street, the same street as his parents. We do not know the circumstances of his death, whether it was in the post war influenza epidemic, but Albert died on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1919. He is buried in St. James Cemetery and is included on the CWGC roll of honour, but not it would appear on the St. James or Vivary Park war memorials.

According to his pension record Albert was a Baptist, so it is possible he is recorded elsewhere.