

In Memory of
Private JESSE PRESTON
5731, 2nd Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment
Born in Faringdon who died, age 36, on 27 May 1918
Husband of Cecilia M. Preston,
of 10, Parchment St., Chichester.
Remembered with honour
Faringdon and Little Coxwell War Memorials
JONCHERY-SUR-VESLE BRITISH CEMETERY



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Jonchery-sur-Vesle is a village and commune in the Department of the Marne, about 16 km west of Reims. Jonchery-sur-Vesle British Cemetery was made after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the battlefields and other cemeteries, including:- Ecueil Farm Military Cemetery, where 13 British soldiers were buried in July, 1918, with 31 French and 25 Italian. Tramery French Military Cemetery, where four British soldiers were buried in May, 1918. Treslon Churchyard and French Extension, where two British soldiers and one man of the Friends' Ambulance Unit were buried. There are now over 350, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over two-thirds are unidentified and special memorials are erected to five soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves could not be found. The cemetery covers an area of 1,376 square metres and is enclosed by a low flint rubble wall.

Born on 13 September 1881 in Little Coxwell and baptised at St. Mary's Church on 23 October, Jesse, as he was known, was the youngest son of John and Jane Preston. John was a carter for the Little Coxwell House estate where Jesse also became a groom, the third generation of his family to have been employed there. Jesse married Cecilia in Chichester and is also commemorated on their war memorial. He volunteered in August 1914, re-enlisting in his old regiment with whom he had previously served at the time of the Boer War. He was killed at the Battle of the Aisne and buried initially in a grave marked with a wooden cross at Berry-au-Bac before being reinterred at Jonchery-sur-Vesle. (Ann Preston, Highworth, 2008)