

Stephen Fovargue
Rank: Corporal
Regiment/Service: Royal Field Artillery
Unit Text: 74 Bty
Date of Death: 2 February 1918
Service No: 69810

Stephen Fovargue appears on the Beenham war memorial but his connection with the village is obscure. The war memorial shows him to have been a Gunner with the Royal Field Artillery.

A search of family trees, census returns and military records proved difficult because various spellings of the surname appear, including FOVARQUE and FOVARGUE. Even Stephen's date of death is confused, with some records suggesting it was 2 February 1918 and others 2 August 1918. Certainly the CWGC has a Stephen Fovargue Cpl 69810, 74 Battery, Royal Field Artillery, died 2 February 1918 and buried in Plot SA. Row 1. Grave 21 at Dinapore No. 3 Cemetery, Chennai, India. This may well be our man.

Very little information has been discovered regarding his life before he joined the army. There is no convincing return for Stephen or his family in the census returns for 1891, 1901 or 1911 and no enlistment papers were found. One source suggested that Stephen was born in India and married Emma Jones at Bradfield, Berkshire, the marriage being registered in the July, August, September quarter of 1916. Another source suggested he was born 26 Jul 1885 at Gravesend, son of Stephen F. & Jane Lissaman. Stephen and Emma had a son, Stephen J. Fovargue, registered Bradfield, April May, June 1917 quarter. A Stephen John Fovargue died Jan, Feb, Mar quarter 1999, born 25 May 1917, registered Torridge, Devon but no further details have been forthcoming.

Intriguingly Corporal Stephen Fovargue is also commemorated on a stone tablet placed on either side of the interior walls of the lychgate leading to St. Mary the Virgin, Tydd, Lincolnshire as is a John Fovargue Pte 12508, 1st Irish Guards who died of wounds on 30 October 1918, age 21. John was the son of Stephen & Jennie Fovargue. Given the unusual name it is highly likely that these two men were related but how remains unknown. The war memorial is in the form of two

Corporal Stephen Fovargue was awarded the 1914 Star Medal, the British War Medal and Victory Medal. His wife received war gratuities of £6 on the 12 December 1918 and £7 on 20 October 1919.