Bombardier Bertie J Johnson

Bombardier Bertie J Johnson lived with his wife Jessie in Snodland where he was born, and worked before the War in the Chafford Arms, Fordcombe assisted by his wife. He enlisted in the 286th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery at Tunbridge Wells . He is listed as a gunner and was killed in action on 29th November 1917, aged 29.

Where he died is currently undiscoverable, but it is likely to have been in the Battle of Cambrai, which used artillery and tanks to initially great effect, breaking through various German defences until then deemed virtually impregnable. However a strong German counterattack then ended any advance, the thin British line was quickly overrun and the Battle ended in an ignominious defeat. Around 45,000 British troops were reported dead, wounded, or missing, with similar numbers of casualties on the German side. There is some evidence that the innovative tactics used, when refined, contributed to victory in 1918