John Appleyard





Rank: - Private

Number: - 43818

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry 19th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 7th August 1917 aged 21 years

Cemetery: - Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery, Somme, France D 24

"AT REST"

Batley News, 18 Aug 1917 (photo)

Family Details

John and Henry were born in Liversedge in c.1896 the twin sons of Joseph and Mary Ellen Appleyard nee Hays who had married in 1895.

Frances was born in 1900 and the family was living at Occupation Lane, Staincliffe before her birth. Joseph was born 10 years later in 1910.

When the 1911 census was taken Joseph was working as a stationary engineman for cotton spinners and the twins were working as piecener's at a cotton mill. The family had moved to live in a two roomed home at 11, Fox Buildings, Halifax Rd., Staincliffe, Batley, Yorks.

John attended Staincliffe Church Day School and was also connected to Staincliffe Parish Church and Sunday school. He was a member of the choir, possessing a fine tenor voice of much promise and was a member of Dewsbury Operatic Society having performed in several of their productions.

Both John and Henry worked as piecener's and were employed by Messrs. Fox & Sons, Staincliffe where their father was an engineer.

Service Details

John enlisted at Dewsbury in May 1916 and went to France in December 1916. At this time the 19th Durham Light Infantry came under the orders 106th Brigade in 35th Division. Before December 1916 they had been a Bantam Battalion which meant the men were under the regulation height of 5ft. 4 inches tall.

In 1917 they took part in the pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14th March-5th April).

An Army Chaplain wrote to his parents to inform them that John had been killed by a shell on August 7th and buried in a military cemetery the following day.

At the time of his death his twin brother Henry had been out at the Front for two years with the Royal Field Artillery.

John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe; Staincliffe C. of E. Junior School and Batley War Memorial.

