John Battle



Rank: - Private

Number: - 201814

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 1/5th Battalion (previously 20312 KOSB 1/6th Battalion)

Killed in Action in Egypt: - 24/11/1917 Age: 19 years

Memorial: - Jerusalem War Memorial, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza) X.31

Family Details

John was born in Batley Carr in January 1898 the son of Thomas Owen and Harriett Battle nee Lockwood who had married in 1895 in Dewsbury. In 1901 he was living with his Barnsley born father, his mother, brother Hubert born 1896 and sister Mary born 1900 at 28, Cross Chapel Street, Batley Carr. Thomas Owen was a coal miner hewer.

Catherine was born in 1901 but died in 1902 followed by Lawrence in 1902 who also died in infancy followed by Frederick 1904 and Ellen 1906 and the family was still living in the same one-up one-down house in 1911. Thirteen-year-old John was working underground as a trapper.

Service Details

According to his medal index card John disembarked on the 8th October 1915 which would have made him 17 years of age.

The 1/5th (Dumfries & Galloway) Battalion from the 11th May 1915 came under the orders of 155th Brigade, 52nd (Lowland) Division.

They sailed from Liverpool on 24 May 1915 for service at Gallipoli, landing on the 6th June 1915. According to his medal index card John disembarked on the 8th October 1915 which would have made him 17 years of age.

They evacuated Helles between 7-8th January 1916 they moved via Mudros to Egypt where they remained until 1918.

In 1916 the Division moved to Egypt after being evacuated from Gallipoli and concentrated at Abbassia near Cairo. It subsequently moved to El Kantara and on 2nd March took over No 3 Section of the Suez Canal defences. They fought at Dueidar on 22nd April and at the Battle of Romani (4-5 August).

In 1917 they fought at: -

The First Battle of Gaza (26-27 March, this Division being in reserve)
The Second Battle of Gaza (17-19 April)
The Third Battle of Gaza (1-7 November)
Wadi el Hesi (8 November)
Burqa (12 November, 156th Brigade only)
El Maghar (13 November, 155th Brigade only)

The capture of Junction Station (14 November)
The Battle of Nabi Samweil (20 – 24 November)

John was killed in action on the last day of this battle.

He was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group