John (Jack) Joseph Archibald Farrar





Rank: - Private

Number: - 39898

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 7th Battalion

Died of pneumonia: -9th October 1917 aged 20

Cemetery: - Rocquigny-Equanncourt Road British Cemetery 1.C.18.

"GRANT HIM O LORD ETERNAL REST"

Batley News, 20 Oct 1917 (photo)

Family Details:

John Joseph Archibald Farrar ("Jack") was born 12 October 1896 to Batley born couple George William Farrar and his wife Jane Elizabeth (Nee Ibberson).

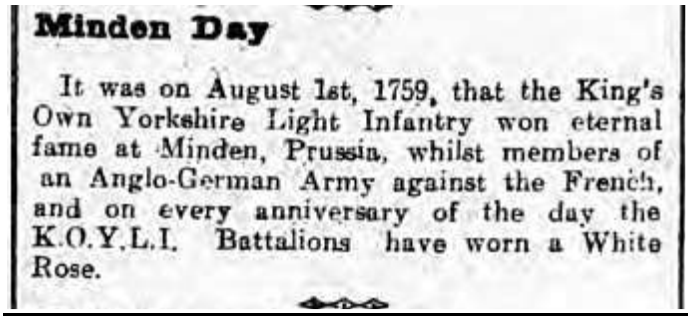
When he was baptised on 13th December 1896 at Batley Parish Church, the family were living at 80 Young Street, Batley and George William was a Twill hand.

When John's sister, Charlotte Anna, was baptised on 19th April 1899 the family had moved to 80, Hume Street, Batley.

George William, completed the family in June 1904.

John attended Batley Parish Church School and was also connected with the Parish Church. He worked at J.T. & J. Taylor, Cheapside Mills. He was a nephew of the late Seth Fox who had been a joiner and undertaker in Batley.

Service Details:



Minden Day

It was on August 1st, 1759, that the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry won eternal fame at Minden, Prussia, whilst members of an Anglo-German Army against the French, and on every anniversary of the day the K.O.Y.L.I. Battalions have worn a White Rose.

He was called up in September 1916 and went to France June 1917.

7th Battalion came under 61st Brigade 20th (light) Division

In 1917 they fought at the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line
Battle of Langemarck 16th -18th August
Battle of the Menin Road Ridge 20th -25th September
Battle of Polygon Wood 26th September -3rd October
The battles were part of the Third Battles of Ypres

John would have become ill around the time of the Battle of Polygon Wood and was sent to a clearing station.

An official telegram arrived from a clearing station saying he was dangerously ill. On Friday 13th October news came from the Matron saying: -

"Your son has died today 8th October at 3.45 p.m. He was admitted into hospital at around 11a.m. this morning, very ill indeed with pneumonia. He told us several times, as well he could, that it was the first time he had been ill since he had been out. Poor lad, little did he know the end was so near. Everything possible was done for him, but it was beyond all human power to save his life. I was with him at the end, which was very peaceful. He will be buried in a military cemetery just outside---"

John died of pneumonia at 48th Casualty Clearing Station a week before his 21st birthday.

The following appeared in the Batley News on 20th October 1917

Farrar: On October 8th on No, 48 Casualty Clearing Station France, from pneumonia Private John J. A. Farrar KOYLI dearly beloved son of George William and Jane Elizabeth Farrar of Hume Street, Batley.

"Only those who have loved and lost can understand "

On the family grave in Batley Cemetery: -

------*Beloved son of George William and Jane Elizabeth Farrar who died in France October 8th 1917 in his 21st year*

George William (father) died 12th December 1924 and also their daughter Charlotte Anna (Nancy) aged 25

Lovely and pleasant in their lives in death they were not divided.

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church and Rocquigny-Equancourt Road Military Cemetery.



Researched by members of Batley History Group