John Goodall





Rank: - Private

Number: - 46055

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers 8th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 29/05/1917 Age: 27 years

Cemetery: - Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 1.F.7

Batley News, 9 Jun 1917, 16 Jun 1917 (photo), 23 Jun 1917

Family Details

John was born in Batley on the 31st December 1889 the youngest son of William and Susannah Goodall nee Hanson who had married on the 9th February 1874 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Birstall. William was a woollen cloth finisher and in 1891 he was living with his family at 64, Brookroyd Lane, Batley.

John's siblings were: - Mary Ann 1875, Joah 1876, Frank 1877, Alice 1879, Ralph 1881-1900, Hanson 1883. Before 1901 Littletown born William had become a cashier and manager for a woollen company. Within the next decade William had become a cloth finisher once more and the family had moved to 9, Kirkgate, Birstall. John was working as a book-keeper for an iron pulley maker. John was well known in Birstall being a prominent Birstall Wesleyan and a former Sunday School Secretary and Band of Hope worker. He was also a member of the Birstall Tent of Rechabites. His father William Goodall acted as secretary for over 30 years for Birstall Liberal Club and Joah Goodall was the treasurer. John was also a former member. Before he enlisted John worked at Messrs. Douglas Lawson and Son's Office at Birstall.

On the 27th June 1914 John married Helena Senior of 129, Carlinghow Lane, Batley at Cross Bank Chapel, Batley. They went to live at Victoria Street, Birstall and Fred Senior Goodall was born in the summer of 1915.

Service Details

John enlisted on the 14th April 1916 and went to France in December 1916.

The news that John had been killed in action came from a Corporal in a letter which said: - "*Just a few lines to tell you of the sad news that your husband was killed on May 28th, I know it will be a great shock to you. He has as good a burial service as people who die in England. I was present at the Cemetery. He had a big cross put over his grave, which is in a cemetery. He did his duty.*"

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

He is remembered with Honour at St Saviour's Brownhill; Birstall Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (St John's); Temperance Hall – Smithies Lane, Birstall; Birstall and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of Batley History Group