John Howgate





Rank: - Private

Number: - 35002

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers (Formerly 50079 West Yorkshire Regiment (prev KOYLI)) 22nd Battalion (Tyneside Scottish)

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 21/03/1918 Age: 29 years

Memorial: - Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Bay 2 and 3

Batley News, 1 Jun 1918 (photo), 11 Jan 1919 (photo)

Family Details

John was born in Darton, Barnsley according to census but was registered in Dewsbury in the summer of 1889 the son of John Henry and Sarah Ann Howgate nee Winter. The couple had married at St. John's Church, Dewsbury Moor on the 15th October 1888. James was born in 1891 and the family was living at 15, Middle Road, Dewsbury and John Henry was working as a coal miner when the 1891 census was taken.

Harry was born in 1893 followed by Willie in 1896.

John would have attended Eastborough Council School like his brothers. In 1901 the family was living at 1, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury.

In 1910 the family was living at 24, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr but before 1911 John had become a boarder at the home of Harry Taylor and his family at 9, Cross Chapel Street, Batley Carr. John was employed as a sugar boiler for a chocolate manufacturer.

On the 22nd July 1911 John married Emily Field at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr. John was born in 1912 but sadly died in 1913, Nellie was born in 1913 and died in early 1916, Harry was born in January 1915 followed by Arthur 1917 and John 1918.

His mother died in February 1914 and his father in July 1918. Prior to enlisting he worked at Messrs. Newsome and Askham's Foundry, Warwick Road, Batley.

Service Details

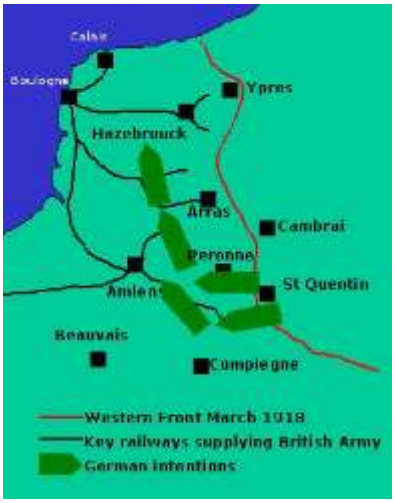
John enlisted in November 1916 and went to France with the K.O.Y.L.I. in early 1917 and then transferred to the West Yorks. and then to the Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Scottish).

The first major battle fought in 1918 by the battalion was: -

The Battle of St Quentin, a phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918 (21-23 March).

John went missing on the first day of this battle. It was hoped he had been taken prisoner and in June 1918 it was reported in the local newspapers that both he

and his brother Willie were posted missing. His brother, Harry, had been killed in action on the 3rd September 1916 in France. This must have been a terrible time for their father who had lost his wife in 1914, an unmarried son in 1916 and two sons missing in 1918. He died in July 1918.



After the war in January 1919 Willie was repatriated because after being captured in March 1918, he was sick in hospital and then taken to Wittenburg Camp, Germany in July 1918. Sadly, there was no happy ending for John and his family he was missing presumed killed and never came home and never saw his youngest child.

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.

Henry (Harry) is remembered on Dewsbury War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group