# John Jackson





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 52241

**Regiment: -** Durham Light Infantry (formerly 33378 K.O.Y.L.I.) 22nd Pioneer Battalion.

**Killed in Action:** - 2nd June 1917 aged 34 years.

**Cemetery: -** Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 111.B.3.

## Family Details

John was born in Cadishead, Liverpool in c 1881 the son of Joseph Jackson and Elizabeth Jackson (nee Aspinall). The couple had married on 30th November 1869 at Heswall, Lancashire. Jane Elizabeth was born in 1870.

In 1891 the family which comprised of Joseph and Elizabeth, Margaret 1873, Catherine 1877, John 1881, Mary Ellen 1884 and Hannah 1886 was living at 156, Commercial Road, Kirkdale, Liverpool along with three boarders and a visitor. Joseph and the other men in the household were all boatmen on barges.

Joseph died in August 1898 and in 1901 Elizabeth, John, Mary Ellen and Hannah were living at 28, Boston Street, Bootle where Elizabeth was working on her own account as a shop keeper and John was working as a navvy in the new docks.

On 5th August 1905 John married Caroline Ellis at All Saints, Dewsbury.

In 1911 he was working as a window cleaner on his own account, living at 13, Grafton Street, Batley with his wife and two children, Nellie born August 1906 and Clement born April 1910.

John had been a partner in the Batley and District Window Cleaning Company for eight years before he enlisted and was very well known in the district. He was connected with Chickenley Wesleyan Chapel and had previously been a miner at both Chickenley and Shaw Cross collieries.

He was a member of Soothill Working Men's Club and also a member of The Independent Order of *Rechabites.*

The family moved to live at 54, Lady Ann Road, Soothill, Batley.

## Service Details

John had previously served in the Regular Army and for a considerable time had been with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in Malta for eight years. His time had expired when war broke out.

John was called up under the Derby Scheme on 17th July 1916 and went to the Front 10 weeks later on 24th September 1916 being attached to the K.O.Y.L.I. but was transferred to the Durham Light Infantry when he reached France.

According to his medical records he was 5ft 3 inches tall, weighed 110 lbs and had tattoo marks on both forearms and had slight varicose veins.

The 22nd Battalion was attached to 8th Division becoming a Pioneer Battalion from 2nd July 1916.

The 22nd Battalion returned to the Somme battlefield in late October1916 and lost over 30 men digging communication trenches and carrying wounded for the 8th Division.

During Somme fighting the Germans construct a formidable new defensive system some miles in their rear. From February 1917 they begin to withdraw into it, giving up ground but in carrying out *Operation Alberich* they make the ground as uninhabitable and difficult as possible. The British detect the withdrawal and cautiously follow up and advance, being brought to a standstill at the outer defences of the system.

The 8th Division took part in this German retreat to the Hindenburg Line.

In March 1917 he was wounded in the hand.

He was killed in action on 2nd June 1917.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Luke's Church, St. Paul's Hanging Heaton and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group