John Simon Mould





Rank: - Cpl.

Number: - 387584

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 10th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 1st July 1916 aged 36 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 11 C and 12 A.

Batley News, 2 Sep 1916, 21 Oct 1916 (photo0

Family Details

John Simon was born in Mirfield on the 1st April 1880 the son of Matthew Mould and Eliza Mould (nee Robinson, m. 1868, Spalding, Lincolnshire) of Wood Bottom, Hopton. He was baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on the 15th March 1881 and in 1881 he was living with his parents and siblings at Coate's Buildings, Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe. Matthew was a night watchman who was born in Donnington, Lincolnshire as was their eldest daughter Emma in 1871. Alfred born 1876 and John were born in Mirfield whilst their mother came from Birstall.

William Henry was born in Mirfield in 1885 but was described as an imbecile on the 1891 census when the family was living at Queen Street, Ravensthorpe.

In 1901 aged 20 John was living as a boarder at Scarsdale Road, Newbold and Dunstan, nr. Chesterfield, Derbyshire and was working as a sawyer.

He returned to Yorkshire and married Jessie Owens Senior on 26th December 1904 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield.

Frances was born in 1906 followed by Matthew in September 1907 but died aged 13 months in November 1908, Ernest March 1909 but sadly died 16th September 1909, John 1912 and Lilian 1916.

In 1911 the family was living at 6, Cromwell Street, Thornhill Lees and John was working as a gas stoker for a woollen blanket manufacturer. This would have been Messrs. Wormald and Walkers of Thornhill Lees.

John was brought up going to Ravensthorpe Congregational Church and was a member of Hopton Cricket Club. His parents resided in Hopton at the time of his death.

Service Details

John Simon served during the South African (Boer) War with the local Reserves and was given a medal for that campaign.

He enlisted in 1914 and the 10th Battalion came under the orders of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. They went to France in September 1915 and fought at the Battle of Loos that year.

On the 1st July 1916 the Battle of the Somme started and John took part in the Battle of Albert which lasted until the 13th July. He went missing on the first day. His wife and family lived at Back Chapel Street, Batley Carr at the time of his death.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

John Simon is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group