John North



Rank: - Private

Number: - 28290

Regiment: - Wiltshire Regiment (Formerly 46033 Lincolnshire Regt., 28522 Labour Corps, 33272 KOYLI) 1st Battalion

Killed in Action: -23rd October 1918 aged 32 years

Cemetery: - Ovillers New Communal Cemetery, Solesmes, Nord, France A 7/26

"REST IN PEACE"

Family Details

John was born in Liversedge in c.1886 the son of Abraham and Emma North nee Pattison who had married on 24th March 1883 at Christ Church, Liversedge.

In 1891 he was living with his parents, older sibling George Arthur, born 1883 and his maternal grandparents at Bromley's Building's, Huddersfield Road, Liversedge. His father was a coal miner.

Goodwin was born in 1891 and the family moved to live at 41, Hill Street, Flush, Heckmondwike but sadly Abraham died on 17th December 1899 at Dewsbury Infirmary leaving effects of £44. He had changed his occupation to become a mill-operative.

John and Goodwin were baptised on 17th August 1896 at George Street, Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike. His age was given as 11 years.

Emma was still living with her children at Hill Street, Flush, Heckmondwike in 1901.

On 29th May 1909, John married Rhoda Yeomans at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley. His brother George Arthur was a witness. The couple went to live in a two roomed home at 11, Titchbourne Street, Bunkers Lane, Batley. Hilda was born in 1911. John was employed at Messrs. Illingworth, White Lee and was connected with the Blanket Hall Street Mission in Heckmondwike.

His widow, Rhoda, married Fred Parkinson in 1920.

Service Details

John joined the Wiltshire Regiment in July 1916 and went to France on March 25th 1917, his brother George Arthur was killed a fortnight afterwards on the 9th April 1917.

He had been ill with trench fever. A letter was sent to his mother Mrs. Emma North of Hill Street, Flush, Heckmondwike to say he had died on October 23rd.

On the 12th October at Caullery, France the Battalions strength was 32 Officers, 767 other ranks, 49 horses and 3 mules and on the 13th reorganisation and training commenced.

On the 22nd they travelled to Neuvilly and at 22.00 hours they proceeded to the assembly lines near Ovillers and the Battalion in conjunction with 7th Battalion Leicester Regiment on the left and the 64th Infantry Brigade on the right attacked to the west of Ovillers and succeeded in talking all their objectives and holding them until the 6th Battalion Leicester Regiment and 62nd Infantry Brigade went through to capture further objectives.

By 02.00 hours on the 23rd casualties were: -

Killed-- 2nd Lieut. H.R. Palmer, 2nd Lieut. H.B. Cooper Other ranks 23.

Wounded -- Lt. W. J. E. Ross, 2nd Lieut. E. G. Blackmore, 2nd Lieut. H. Aston, Other ranks 120 and Other ranks missing 7

John was one of those killed.

In October 1918 his brother, Goodwin, was serving in France.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group