John Peel





Rank: - Private

Number: - 15339

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 16th September 1916 aged 34 years

Cemetery: - Gordon Dump Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, Somme, France X. D. 3.

Batley News, 28 Oct 1916 (photo)

Family Details

John was born in Birstall on the 19th July 1882 the son of Abraham and Elizabeth Ann Peel nee Gill who had married on 3rd February 1868 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall. He was baptised at St. Peter's Church on 25th May 1890 on the same day as his siblings, Herbert born 20th February 1880 and Abraham born 13th May 1886. Harry was born in 1891. His other siblings were Sarah Ann 1869, Mary Elizabeth 1870, Louisa 1873-1876, Mary Ann 1875 and Carrie 1877.

In 1891 the family was living at Raikes Lane, Birstall.

Abraham was a miner and probably moved around looking for work because in 1901 the family was living at 16, New Street, Hemsworth and both Herbert and John had joined him working in the pits as hewers.

John married Mary Grinstead on the 22nd April 1905 at Batley Parish Church. Evelyn was born in 1906 and Lily in 1912.

In 1911 the family was living in a two roomed home at 14, Wilson Buildings, Bradford Road Central, Batley they later moved to 2, Holland Street, Caledonia Road, Batley.

Before the war he was employed as a charge man at Critchley's, West End Colliery. He had been a benefactor under the Talbot Hotel's Soldier Fund.

Service Details

John had served in Boer war as a regular soldier in the York and Lancaster Regiment and was a reservist on outbreak of the Great War and was within a month under arms.

He was at the Front for about 12 months and was wounded twice in the thigh and arm.

In 1916 the 9th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry fought on the Somme at :-
The Battle of Albert (1-13th July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17th July)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22nd September)

Anxiety was felt at home because they had not heard from him since 19th August and it was not until late October that his wife received official news that he had been killed in action on 16th September 1916.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Birstall Mount Top Wesleyan Methodist Church and Birstall and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group