John Arthur Pickering





Rank: - Private

Number: - 32515

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment 9th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 10/06/1917 Age: 30 years

Cemetery: - Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm), Belgium V11.S.14

Batley News, 30 Jun 1917 (photo)

Family Details

John Arthur was born in April Qtr 1887 the son of Catherine Pickering.

In 1891 he was living at the home of his widowed grandfather, Thomas Pickering, with his mother and aunts in Wellington Street, Batley. Catherine married James Ward at Batley Parish Church on the 2nd February 1892.

Catherine in 1901 was living at 9 Bond Street, Dewsbury, which was the York Hotel, and James was employed as a publican. They continued to be publicans moving to Royal Exchange Hotel, Hunslet before 1911 and she had had six more children but one had died in infancy. John Arthur continued to live with his grandfather and in 1901 they lived at 14, Clerk Green, Batley with his aunt and 13year old Ethel Pickering and both her and John were working as machine minders in a woollen mill.

In 1911 his 76-year-old grandfather who was described as a master tailor was living at 16, Hanover Street, Batley with John Arthur and another two of his grandchildren. Thomas died in August 1919.

John Arthur married Mary Ann Pilsworth on 4th May 1912 at Hick Lane Chapel.

John was connected with Hick Lane Chapel and was a member of the Batley "Harbour of Refuge" Lodge of the Sons of Temperance. He worked in the finishing department at Messrs. G. & J. Stubley's mill.

Service Details

John Arthur lived at 10, Brearley Place, Purlwell Lane, Batley when he rejoined from the Reserves on the 8th February 1917.

He had been at the front for only nine weeks when he was killed.

His Division fought from 7th– 14th June 1917 at the Battle of Messines which was a brilliantly planned and executed attack that resulted in the capture of the Wytschaete-Messines ridge south of Ypres, a feature that had given the British problems since 1914 and which was important to hold for future offensive operations in Flanders. It commenced with one of the heaviest artillery bombardments of the war and the explosion of nineteen enormous and long-prepared underground mines.

John Arthur was wounded in the early fighting and died of his wounds on the 10th June 1917.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group