John William Scorah





Rank: - Private

Number: - 22148

Regiment: - Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regt)

(Formerly 356 West Yorkshire Regt) 1st Garrison Battalion

Died of influenza: - 30th October 1918 aged 36 years

Memorial: - Karachi 1914-18 War Memorial, Pakistan

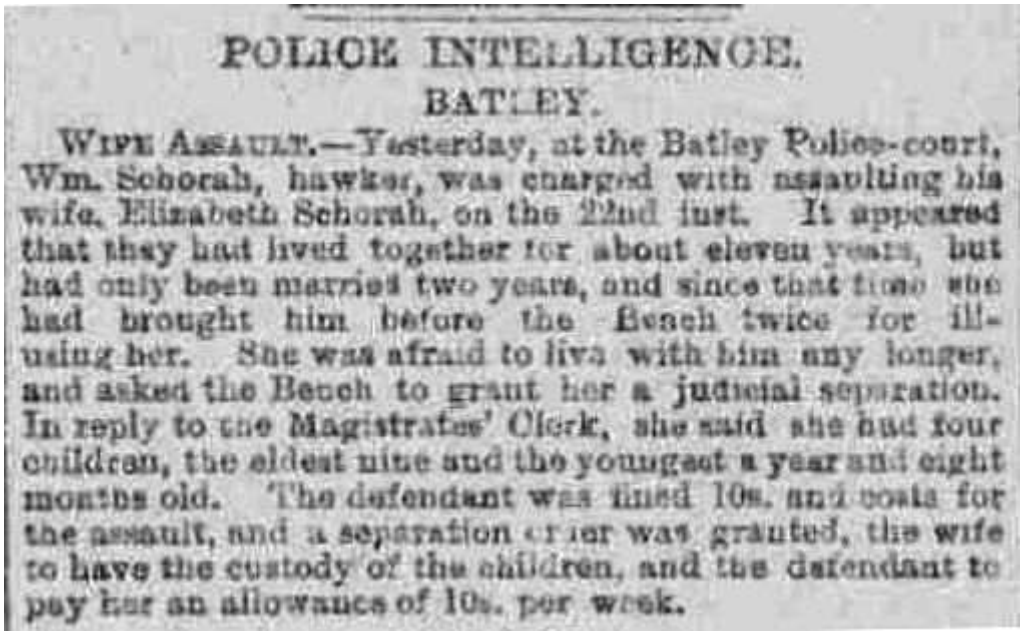
Family Details

John William was born at 58, Cross Peel Street, Batley on 2nd September 1882 the son of William and Elizabeth Scorah (nee Clifton).

In the 1881 census William and Elizabeth were living at a baker's shop in Commercial Street, Batley stating they were married with children Thomas Henry (1875), Ann Maria (1877) and Charlotte (1880). In fact, the couple did not marry until the following year. Lynda who was born in 1881 had died in January 1882 aged 8 months.

John William's mother came from Market Harborough, Leicestershire and married Huddersfield born William Scorah at the Independent Chapel, Batley on 3rd May 1882.

On 28th April 1884 William was accused of assaulting Elizabeth and on 5th September 1884 he was accused of neglecting his family.



POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

BATLEY.

WIFE ASSAULT.—Yesterday, at the Batley Police-court, Wm. Scborah, hawker, was charged with assaulting his wife, Elizabeth Scborah, on the 22nd inst. It appeared that they had lived together for about eleven years, but had only been married two years, and since that time she had brought him before the Bench twice for ill-using her. She was afraid to live with him any longer, and asked the Bench to grant her a judicial separation. In reply to the Magistrates' Clerk, she said she had four children, the eldest nine and the youngest a year and eight months old. The defendant was fined 10s. and costs for the assault, and a separation order was granted, the wife to have the custody of the children, and the defendant to pay her an allowance of 10s. per week.

Newspaper report April 1884.

William seems to have left Batley.

In 1891 the family which consisted of Elizabeth, Ann, Charlotte, John William, Hannah Ellen (1886-1903) and Alice (1887) were boarders at the home of widower John Lund, who was a greengrocer, at 18 and 20 Mill Lane, Batley.

Elizabeth was described as a hawker. It is possible that Hannah and Alice were the children of John Lund.

In 1901 John William was the eldest of Elizabeth s children still living with the family but the family was at 12, Mill Lane and Elizabeth was described as "housekeeper "to John Lund with further editions of children, Edgar 1892-1915, Doris (1898).

A decade later only Edgar and Doris were still living with John and Elizabeth in the 2 roomed home at 12, Mill Lane and the 1911 census shows that Elizabeth had 14 children born alive but 8 had died. Edgar had been a twin to Jane but she died aged 10 weeks in September 1892. Twins Mary and Martha were born in 1892 but Mary died in early August aged 8 weeks and Martha died in November aged 5 months. Elizabeth born 1890 had died in January 1891 aged 10 months.

John Lund died in 1915.

John William married Julia Pickering on 27th September 1905 at Batley Parish Church giving his address as 12, Old Mill Lane, Batley and his occupation was a miner. Harry was born in 1906 followed by Agnes in 1910 and in 1911 the family was living at 13, Kiln Lane, Dewsbury. Tom was born in 1913. At the time of his death his wife and family were living at 26, Albion Street, Batley. The Batley News of 1918 reported that he had four children. Ben Pickering born 1901 would have been his step son.

John William was a miner at Messrs. Critchley's, West End Colliery before enlisting in 1914. He was a member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club and attended Zion Church and Sunday school. At the time of his death his mother lived in Park Road, Batley.

Service Details

John William enlisted at Leeds and according to the newspaper reports joined his regiment in 1915 or 1916.

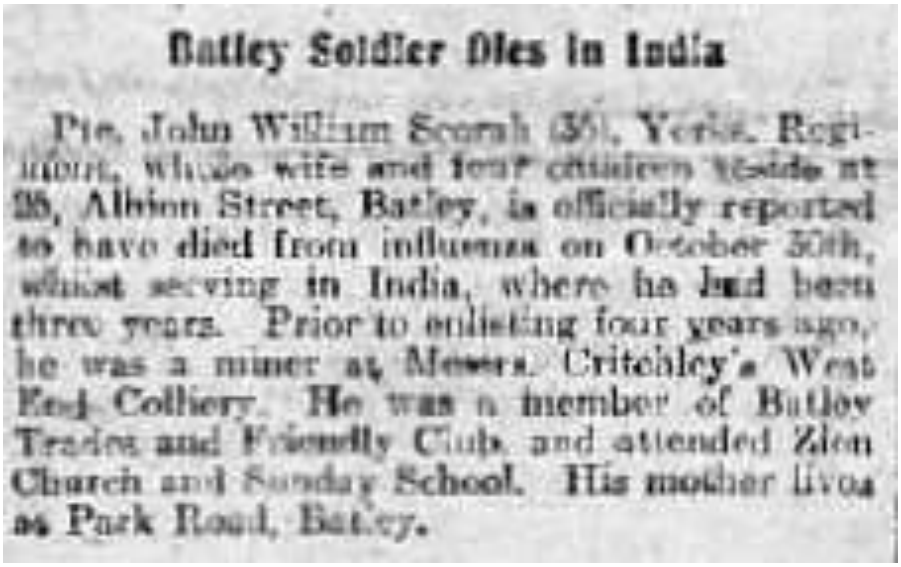
In August 1914 the battalion was in Barian, Punjab attached to 2nd (Rawalpindi) Division. In November 1914 they briefly moved to Delhi Brigade in 7th (Meerut) Divisional Area before going to Kohat Brigade on the North West Frontier.

The Batley News of 30th November 1918 stated that Private John William Scorah aged 36 was officially reported to have died from influenza on October 30th whilst serving in India where he had been for three years. He had enlisted four years prior to his death.

John William was awarded the British War Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Karachi War Memorial, Zion Chapel and Batley War Memorial.





Batley Soldier Dies in India

Pte. John William Scorah (36), Yorks. Regiment, whose wife and four children reside at 35, Albion Street, Batley, is officially reported to have died from influenza on October 30th, whilst serving in India, where he had been three years. Prior to enlisting four years ago, he was a miner at Messrs. Critchley's West End Colliery. He was a member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club, and attended Zion Church and Sunday School. His mother lives at Park Road, Batley.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group