John Winn





Rank: - Private

Number: - 80419

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry 1/6th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 14th April 1918 aged 19

Cemetery: - Outtersteene Communal Extension, Bailleul, France.1V.E.10

Batley News, 4 May 1918, 11 May 1918 (photo)

Family Details

John Winn was born on the 7th January 1899 the son of Batley born couple, Henry and Maria (nee Roberts) who lived in Queen Street, Batley. He was baptised at Broomhill Chapel, Taylor Street, Batley on 16th March 1899.

His elder brother, Arthur was born in January 1895 died in March aged 6 weeks, Clifford was born in 1896 but died in October 1897 aged one year, Lionel was born in June 1897 followed by John, then twins Henry and Nora in about April 1900. Sadly, Lionel died in 1908, Nora died in March 1901 aged 10 months, and Horace was born in 1907 but died in May 1911.

In 1911 the family had moved to 41, Grafton Street, Batley and Henry was described as a stationary engine man at a dyeing and carbonising works.

As a boy John attended Warwick Road School and Broomhill Chapel, Taylor Street before becoming associated with St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell. He was also associated with Batley Working Men's Club and worked at J.T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills, Batley.

Henry and Maria later moved to live at 27, Bankfields, Batley.

Service Details

John joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1917 at the same time as Herbert Senior of Brearley' s Yard, Purlwell, who was reported missing at the same time as John.

The 1/6th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry came under the orders of the 150th Brigade, 50th (Northumberland) Division.

In 1917 they fought at the First and Second Battles of Scarpe and the Capture of Wancourt Ridge and the Second Battle of Passchendaele.

The Division took part in the Battle of St. Quentin between the 21st March and 5th April which was part of the First Battles of the Somme 1918. The Battle of Rosieres took place between 26th and 27th March.

In 1918 they fought at the Battle of St. Quentin, Action of the Somme Crossings, Battle of Rosieres and Battle of Estaires. On the 7th April the battalion moved by train to billets in Estaires.

After a quiet day on the 8th a bombardment began on the 9th April. Estaires was heavily bombarded and at 4 am a billet occupied by some officers was hit and six were killed. The battalion moved out to a line north of Lestrem.

Fighting continued near Beaupre until the 13th April when they were relieved by the 5th Division and moved in the early morning to La Moite Chateaux but when it was heavily shelled, they moved again to Steenbecque.

On the 14th and 15th they were still in reserve but sent working to dig trenches in the Foret de Nieppe.

John was killed at some point during this time.

John is remembered with Honour at Broomhill Methodist Church, St. Andrew's, Purlwell, Outtersteene Communal Cemetery, Batley Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group