



John Charles Nocton

1882 - 1916

John was born in Dewsbury on 13th October 1882. His father was Patrick Nocton, a woollen spinner born in County Roscommon, Ireland around 1847 and died in 1892. His mother was Bridget (née McDonagh) born in York in 1846 and died in 1929. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 4th February 1875.

Their other children were; Mary Ann, born in 1876, Joseph Egbert, born in 1878 and died in 1879, Thomas, born in 1880 and died in 1881, Thomas Andrew, born in 1885, Joseph Patrick, born in 1888 and Louis Clement, born in 1890. All the brothers served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 2, Bright Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 31, Low Fold, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 20, Back Belgrave Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

John worked as a Willyer for Messrs Henry Hamer and Sons, Ravensthorpe but had been a regular soldier, enlisting on 27th August 1901 and served in the South African Campaign and fought in the Boer War. He was married to a widow, Florence Mooney, née Smith (born in 1881 and died in 1928) on 4th September 1909. They lived at 2, Back Belgrave Street, Flatts and had five children; John Edward, born in 1909 and died in 1910, Henry, born in 1911, Sarah, born in 1913 and died in 1914 and twins John Charles and Margaret Jane, born in 1915. Florence had two children; Mary Mooney, born in 1902 and Ann Mooney, born in 1904 from her previous marriage on 14th June 1902 to John Mooney (born in 1880 and died in 1906)

He was recalled as a Reservist on the outbreak of war and served as Private 7727 in the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front on 13th August 1914. He fought at Mons and was wounded in the right arm at Ypres on 8th November 1914 which needed hospital treatment, firstly at Boulogne and then at home in Chester; he did not return to the front line until May 1915. He came home on leave in January 1916 but died of wounds sustained in the Battle of the Somme on 13th October 1916 at the 2/2nd London Casualty Clearing Station at Meaulte near Albert. He was buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France. John was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal in addition to the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasp for Cape Colony and the King's South Africa Medal.

In September 1916, the 34th and 2/2nd London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at the point known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields. They were moved in April 1917 and, except for a few burials in August and September 1918, the cemetery was closed. Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 First World War burials.

John is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady & St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

John Nocton

7727, 2nd Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 13 October 1916 Age 37

Son of Patrick and Bridget Nocton; husband of Florence Nocton, of 14 Back Belgrave Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

