



## **John Micklethwaite**

### **1893 – 1917**

John was born in Batley in 1893. His father was William Micklethwaite, a Stationary Engine Man born in 1852 and died in 1920. His mother was Grace Ann (nee Hemsworth) born in 1855 and died in 1940. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1888.

Their other children who could be traced were; Fred Hemsworth, born in 1889 and died in 1925; he served in the Royal Navy in World War 1, William, born in 1890 and died in 1890, Maggie, born in 1891, George, born in 1895 and died in 1898, Robert, born in 1898, Richard, born in 1901 and died in 1925.

In 1891, 1901 and 1911 they lived at 68, Warwick Road, Batley.

William was previously married at All Saints Church, Batley on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1878 to Ellen Brook (born in 1855 and died in 1881). They lived at Taylor Street, Batley and had a son, George, born in 1880 and died in 1881.

John was educated at Warwick Road Council School. He was married to Irene Victoria Bywater (born in 1897 and died in 1967) on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1916; they lived at Firth's Yard, Mill Road, Batley Carr and had a daughter, Alice, born in 1916. He worked at Mark Day's Woollen Mill in Church Street, Dewsbury. He had also worked at Messrs J.T. and J. Taylor's Cheapside Mills in Batley. He was connected with Broomhill United Methodist Church, Batley. Irene was remarried in 1932 to Leonard Wood (born in 1908 and died in 1973) they had a son, Derek, born in 1933.

He enlisted in June 1916 serving as Private 42323 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1916. He was killed near Nieuport (now Nieuwpoort) in Belgian Flanders on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1917. According to the report of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1917, he died as the result of a grenade attack. He was buried in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen Belgium. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery is located 2 Kms east of Nieuwpoort on the road which leads from Nieuwpoort to Sint Joris. From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramscappelle, to the sea. The Cemetery started with Plot 1 in the middle of the graveyard. Most of the interments were made in July and August 1917. The burial ground was substantially enlarged after the Armistice of November 1918. At that time, the remains of the deceased from the battlefields and a number of smaller cemeteries were brought to Ramscappelle for interment. There are now 841 Commonwealth casualties of World War I who are either buried or commemorated in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery. Of those, 312 are unidentified.

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 Broomhill United Methodist Church (now Batley Central Methodist Church).

In Memory of  
Private  
**J Micklethwaite**

42323, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 06 July 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

