



John William Ruddlesden

1883-1918

John was born in Dewsbury in 1883. His mother was Sarah Ann Ruddlesden, born in Dewsbury in 1859 and died in 1916.

Sarah was later married to Ben Smith (born in Earlsheaton in 1870 and died in 1939) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 31st December 1898.

There were many spelling translation errors and variations of his surname in some of the later publications of the Census Records: in 1891 at 9, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor (recorded as *Riddlesden*) in 1901 at 134, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor (recorded as *Richardson*) in 1911 at 2, Brewerton Lane, Dewsbury Moor (recorded as *Raddstsden*).

John attended Dewsbury Moor Primitive Chapel and Sunday school and was member of Moor End Working Men's Club. He had his own Painting and Decorating Business at Westborough and was married in 1915 to Hephzibah Hardcastle (born in Thornhill in 1884 and died in 1925); they lived at 6, Brewerton Lane, Dewsbury Moor and had a son, Thomas, born in 1916.

He enlisted in August 1916 serving as Private 34068 in the 12th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He took part in actions in a number of places including the Somme, Arras and Ypres. He was killed in action on 13th April 1918 during the 2nd Battle of the Lys in Northern France and Flanders. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His wife received a letter from an Army Chaplain stating that he was killed instantaneously by a machine gun bullet.

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, which is located 12.5 Kms south of Ypres (now Ieper). The memorial commemorates the 11,349 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave and died in the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

John is also 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and the Moorend Working Men's Club Memorial also kept in St. John's Church.

In Memory of
Private

John William Ruddlesden

34068, 12th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 April 1918

Remembered with Honour
Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

RUDDLESDEN J. W.