



John Idle

1894 – 1917

John was born in Dewsbury on 2nd January 1894. His father was James Alfred Idle, a Bobbin Turner, born in Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1931. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Mitchell) born in Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1921. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 25th December 1879.

Their other children were; Fanny, born in 1881, James Robert, born in 1883 and died in 1884, Walter, born in 1885, Clara, born in 1888, James Henry, born in 1891, Leonard, born in 1896 and died in 1897, Albert, born in 1898, Herbert, born in 1901 and Norman, born in 1902. Walter and James Henry both served in World War 1; Walter was in the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment and was captured at the Battle of Mons in 1914 and was a prisoner of war until 1918. James Henry was a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery and was wounded and gassed. He was discharged in May 1918 as unfit for service.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Asman Square, Dewsbury. In 1901 they were in Ireland and are recorded on the Irish Census as living at 2, Drominagh Wood, Terryglass, County Tipperary. By 1911 they were back in England living at 2, Ingham Road, Thornhill Lees.

John was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and worked as a glass-blower at Messrs Kilner Brothers in Thornhill Lees. When on home leave he visited his former Headmaster, Mr. S. Whitehead.

He was a pre-war reservist who signed on for nine years in August 1914 serving as Private 3/1274 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in February 1915. At the time of his death he was a quartermaster's storeman and a Serjeant-Major's batman. He was killed along with 14 of his comrades by bombs dropped from German aircraft on 3rd April 1917, not far from the village of Savy, 6.5 kilometres west of the town of St. Quentin. His unit was resting behind the front line after combat. He was buried near to where he fell and in October 1920 he was reburied in Savy British Cemetery, Aisne, France. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Savy was taken by the 32nd Division on 1st April 1917, after hard fighting, and Savy Wood on the 2nd. On 21st March 1918 Savy and Roupy were successfully defended by the 30th Division, but the line was withdrawn after nightfall. The village and the wood were retaken on 17th September 1918 by the 34th French Division, fighting on the right of the British IX Corps. Savy British Cemetery was made in 1919, and the graves from the battlefields and from small cemeteries in the neighbourhood. There are now over 850, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, more than half 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.

In Memory of

Private

J Idle

3/1274, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 03 April 1917

Remembered with Honour

Savy British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.