



John Bailey Dixon MM

1882-1918

John Bailey was born on 27th March 1882; he seems to have been known by his middle name and signed all of his letters to home as Bailey. His father was Benjamin Dixon, a Brewery Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1850 and died in 1916. His mother was Emily (nee Allatt) born in Hanging Heaton in 1854 and died in 1911. They were married in St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 15th March 1873.

Their other children were; Ann, born in 1873 and died in 1904, Alfred, born in 1875 and served in World War 1, Jane, born in 1877 and died in 1895, Eliza, born in 1880, Laura, born in 1884 and died in 1893, Allatt, born in 1886 and served in World War 1, Sam, born in 1889 and died of wounds from War Service on 13th August 1918, Eli, born in 1891 and served in World War 1 both in the Army and the Royal Air Force and Rebecca, born in 1894.

On the Census Records from 1891 to 1911 the family lived at 143, High Street, Hanging Heaton.

John Bailey was a sidesman at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and later a verger at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. He was employed in the Rag Department of Mark Day's Wellington Mills. He was married at St. Paul's Church on 23rd July 1910 to Grace Ladyman Bramley (born in Chidswell, Dewsbury in 1880 and died in 1959) they had a son, Alfred, born in 1912 and a daughter, Laura, born in 1916. In 1911 they lived at 12, Highgate, Hanging Heaton and later at 403, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in September 1916 into the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 39756 and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917; he was awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field which was announced in the London Gazette on 18th July 1918. He was killed in action North West of Rheims, France on 27th May 1918 during the First Day of the 3rd Battle of the Aisne (*Operation Blücher-Yorck*), the third stage of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. In addition to the Military Medal, John Bailey was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He was a prolific letter writer and his family are still in possession of over 30 letters which he sent to his wife and children, sisters, brothers, friends at home and relatives of his comrades with whom he served.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. For three and a half years from September 1914, this part of the front was held by French forces and the city remained within the range of German artillery. Here, at the end of May 1918, they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

John Bailey 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 Hanging Heaton War Memorial in St. Paul's Churchyard and on the Memorial Plaque inside St. Paul's Church and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

John Bailey Dixon

M M

39756, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 May 1918 Age 36

Son of Benjamin and Emily Dixon, of Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks; husband of Grace Ladyman Dixon, of 403, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

