



John Pickles

1891-1918

John was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was John Jeffrey Pickles, a Coal Miner born in Mirfield in 1866 and died in 1899. His mother was Annie (nee Milner) born in Selby in 1869 and died in 1941. They were married in Dewsbury in 1888.

Their other children were; Emma, born in 1889, Lily, born in 1893 and Milner, born in 1897.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe.

Annie was remarried in 1902 to Alfred Broadbent (born in Stanningley, Leeds in 1882 and died in 1961); they had a daughter, Mary Ann, born in 1906.

John was educated at Ravensthorpe Church School and was a member of Ravensthorpe Working Man's Club, and was employed as a Coke-Drawer at Ingham's Coke Ovens, Thornhill. He was married to Emily Fisher (born in 1893 and died in 1963) on 15th June 1912 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe, they lived at 30, Carlisle Street, Batley Carr and had five children; Alfred, born in 1912, Lily, born in 1913, Mary Ann, born in Dewsbury in 1915 and died in 1915, John, born in 1916 and Robert, born in 1918.

Emily was remarried in 1919 to Charles Henry Smithson (born in 1898 and died in 1947). They seem to have been estranged by 1939, as Charles is living as a boarder with the family of Lily Green at 27, Parker Road, Thornhill Lees. Emily is recorded as a housekeeper at 4, Fairview Crescent, Batley with the family of a widower, Clarence Garforth (born in 1906 and died in 1976); by now she was spelling her first name as *Emilie*. They were married on 13th September 1947.

He enlisted in Mirfield in September 1914 into the 1st/7th Battalion of the Duke of Wellingtons (West Riding Regiment) as Private 240756 and was sent to the Western Front at the beginning of 1916. He was killed in action in Northern France on 12th October 1918 and was buried in the field; in February 1920 his remains were reburied in Naves Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Naves is a small village about 5 kilometres north-east of Cambrai. The Communal Cemetery is on the south side of the road a little south-west of the village. There are now nearly 450, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over a quarter 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 Pickles

240756, 1st/7th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 12 October 1918

Husband of Mrs. Smithson (formerly Pickles), of 30, Carlisle St., Batley Carr, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Naves Communal Cemetery Extension



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.