



John Arthur Barnes

1899-1918

John Arthur was born in Ravensthorpe on 20th April 1899 and baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 4th November 1899. His father was William Barnes, a teamer for a chemical company born in Ancaster, Lincolnshire in 1854 and died in 1929. His mother was Alice Ann (nee Downing) born in Goldthorpe, Yorkshire in 1858 and died in 1904. They were married in Rotherham in 1879.

Their other children were; William Henry, born in Rotherham in 1881 and died in 1884, Frederick Robert, born in Rotherham in 1882, Martha Hannah, born in Rotherham in 1885, Thomas Edwin, born in Rotherham in 1887, Sarah Ann, born in Rotherham in 1889, Maria Ethel, born in Rotherham in 1890 and died in 1891, Mary Alice, born in Rotherham in 1891, Caroline, born in Ravensthorpe in 1895 and James Ashton, born in Ravensthorpe in 1896.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Westfield View, Westgate, Rotherham, in 1891 at 7, Hall Street, Masborough, Rotherham, in 1901 at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 3, Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe.

John Arthur (he seems to have been known as Arthur) was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Boys School, and attended Ravensthorpe Congregational Church and Sunday school. He worked as a cloth finisher for Messrs Rawdon Briggs and Company in their Woollen Mills in Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted on his 18th birthday in April 1917 but was sent back home following his medical, he was ordered back on the 21st May when he joined the 7th Battalion Training Reserve of the West Yorkshire Regiment; on 18th August 1917 he was posted to the 10th Battalion Training Reserve where he remained until 30th March 1918 when he was posted to the 15th/17th Battalion. He crossed to France the following day and spent a few days at the Infantry Base Depot at Etaples where he received extra training and was then posted to the 8th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) serving as Rifleman 62016. He was killed in action near Reims on 20th July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. John Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. 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 Arthur is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *John A. Barnes* on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Rifleman

John Arthur Barnes

62016, 1st/8th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 20 July 1918 Age 19

Son of William Barnes, of 5, Dearnley St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

