



John William Duxbury

1888-1918

John was born in Ravensthorpe in 1888. His father was also John William Duxbury, a Coal Miner born in Birstall in 1861 and died in 1921. His mother was Emma (nee Lister) born in Armley, Leeds in 1857 and died in 1922. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Leeds on 3rd December 1879.

Their other children were: Jane, born in Wortley, Leeds in 1880 and died in 1880, Arthur, born in Wortley, in 1881 and died as a Prisoner of War in Germany on 28th April 1918, James, born in Holbeck, Leeds in 1885 and served in World War 1, Mary Ann, born in Dewsbury in 1890, Fred, born in Dewsbury in 1893 and was killed in action on 1st July 1916, Chrissie, born in Ravensthorpe in 1896 and Kershaw, born in Ravensthorpe in 1898 and died in 1899.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 3, Topham Street, Wortley, Leeds, in 1891 at 12, St, John's Street, Westtown, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe and later at 40, Fearnley Street, Westtown.

John was a single man who worked as a labourer at Messrs Pickles and Smithson, Chemical Works, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 10th August 1915 along with his brother Arthur; they were given consecutive Service Numbers. John served as Private 12/1789 in the 12th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the brothers were sent to Egypt in November 1915 to protect the Suez Canal. In 1916 they took part in the First Day of the Battle of the Somme; John was wounded in 1917 and was treated in a French Hospital. On 10th April 1918 the Battalion took up positions in Northern France between Estaires and Caestre covering the crossroads of La Couronne. The enemy attacked on 13th April at 8.30am and the Battalion beat off four attacks. Arthur was captured during the battle and later died as a Prisoner of War in Germany just over two weeks later. John was killed in action during that day. His remains were never identified for burial and due to an administrative error, his name was not included in the records of the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) until April 1997 when his name was added to the Ploegsteert Memorial after the error had been discovered and reported to the relevant authorities by the Author and War Historian David Tattersfield, who had discovered the omission when researching for his book published in the year 2000; *"A Village Goes To War."* A History of the Men of Ravensthorpe who fell in the Great War. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

John is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library. Although his name does not appear on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church, somehow his photograph was included in a framed collection of the fallen which hangs in the church.

In Memory of

Private

John William Duxbury

12/1789, 12th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 April 1918 Age 29

Son of Emma Duxbury of West Town, Dewsbury. His two brothers Fred and Arthur also died in service.

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

