

## John Edward Schofield 1894-1918

John was born in Mirfield on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1894 and baptised on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1894 at St. Paul's Church, Easthorpe, Mirfield. His father was Joseph Schofield, a blanket fuller born in Mirfield in 1851 and died in 1918. His mother was Priscilla (nee Rushworth) born in Huddersfield in 1852 and died in 1920. They were married in St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1873.

Their other children were; Fred, born in Mirfield in 1873 and was a regular soldier who had fought in the Boer War in addition to World War 1, Sam, born in 1874 and died in 1874, Arthur, born in Mirfield in 1879, Ethel, born in Mirfield in 1882, Joe, born in Hunslet in 1884 and served in World War 1, Annie Elizabeth, born in Hunslet in 1887 and Mary Emma, born in Hunslet in 1889 and died in 1891.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1891 at 7, Alton Terrace, Hunslet, Leeds, in 1901 at Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at Back Field Street, Ravensthorpe.

John (known as Teddy to his family) was a single man who worked as a maker of firelighters but became a Tenterer working for Messrs Rawdon, Briggs and Company, Textile Manufacturers, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Mirfield early in 1914 serving as Private 240869 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917. He was killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918 and was buried in Gomiecourt South Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Gomiecourt is a village in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, 16 kilometres south of Arras and 6 kilometres north-west of Bapaume. Gomiecourt South Cemetery is on the south-east side of the village. Gomiecourt village was captured by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1918 and the cemetery was made by the 62<sup>nd</sup> Division Burial Officer at the end of August 1918 Gomiecourt South Cemetery contains 206 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, ten of which 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 and on the War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe.



