



John William Goddard

1881 - 1916

John was born in Germany in 1888. His father was George Goddard, a Cloth Finisher born in Holmfirth in 1852 and died in 1926. His mother was Judith (née Lancaster) born in Gomersal in 1853 and died in 1909. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 30th November 1872.

Their first three children were all born in Batley; Ruth, born in 1875, Ada, born in 1877, Emily, born in 1881. The next four were all born in Germany; Ethel, born in 1883, Carrie, born in 1886. George, born in 1887. The youngest was Norman, born in Batley in 1888 and was accidentally killed on 31st October 1918 in a motor accident whilst serving in France.

The growing mechanisation of the German textile industry mean that a lot of recruitment was undertaken in the West Riding to increase the expertise available in Germany.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 2, Butterbowl, Farnley, Leeds, in 1901 at 62, Purlwell Lane, Batley and in 1918 at Cardwell Grove, Savile Town. In 1910 George, Carrie, Norman and John sailed from Liverpool on the SS "*Empress of Ireland*" bound for St. John's, Newfoundland. In the newspaper report of his death there was mention that he had spent three years in Canada and had attempted to book a passage home on the ill-fated RMS "*Lusitania*" but fortunately this did not materialise.

John worked as a mill hand at Fenton and Bradley's Headfield Mills, Savile Town; he was married on 27th May 1916 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees to Ellen (Nellie) Jones (born in 1889 and died in 1946) they lived at 3, Kaye Street, Savile Town where Ellen was still living in 1939, they did not have any children.

He attested in February 1916 serving as Private 26020 in the West Yorkshire Regiment but was then transferred into the 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment as Private 31240. He was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme on 25th September 1916 during the attempt to recapture Mouquet Farm, which was part of the Battle of Pozières. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial along with over 72,000 British and Commonwealth Servicemen who have no known grave. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The attack on Mouquet Farm began on 23rd July 1916 with attacks by the Reserve Army and it was captured by the 3rd Division of the Canadian Corps on 16th September. The farm was lost to a German counter-attack, before being recaptured on 26th September, during an attack by the 11th (Northern) Division as part of the Battle of Thiepval Ridge from 26th to 28th September, in which the 6th Battalion East Yorkshire (Pioneers) cleared out the last German defenders.

John 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 War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

John W. Goddard

31240, 1st Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 25 September 1916 Age 28

Son of George and Judith Goddard; husband of Ellen Goddard, of 3, Kaye St., Saville Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

GODDARD J. W.