



John Joseph Barry 1886 – 1915

John was born around 1886 in Calcutta, India. His father was also John Barry, born in Cork, Ireland in 1854 and died in 1924; he was a Colour Serjeant in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and for many years was the drill instructor at the Dewsbury Detachment of the KOYLI. His mother was Bridget (nee White), born in Tuam, County Galway, Ireland around 1853 and died in 1928. They were married in Tuam in 1872.

There other children were; Mary Ellen (Nellie), born in Dinapur, India in 1884, James, born in Gosport, Hampshire in 1889 and served in World War 1, Emily, born in Dewsbury in 1891 and Edmund, born in Dewsbury in 1900.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family were living at the Drill Hall in Bath Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 8, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury. His father John Snr had retired from the army and his occupation was a Timekeeper at the woollen mill of Messrs Newsome and West, Staincliffe.

John (known as Johnnie to his family and friends) was married in 1909 to Florence Mitchell (born in 1874 and died in 1921); on the 1911 Census they are recorded as living at 170, Jack Lane, Hunslet, Leeds, his occupation is given as a Labourer in a steel works, although he had earlier been an apprentice hairdresser. They did not have any children. Florence was remarried on 24th July 1915 to Dan Dawson Appleyard (born in 1882 and died in 1955).

He attested in July 1911 in the regular army serving as Gunner 35514 in the 78th Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He did not serve on the Western Front but was killed on 17th February 1915 during the Singapore Mutiny, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny or Mutiny of the 5th Native Light Infantry. The mutiny lasted almost a week and resulted in the deaths of 47 British soldiers and local civilians. He was buried in Bidadari Christian Cemetery but in 1957 his remains, along with many other burials were reinterred in Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. John was awarded only the British War Medal as he died overseas but did not serve in a war zone.

His death was reported in the Dewsbury and District News on 17th April 1915, as part of a wider report about the Mutiny. It stated that: *“During the night of the 16th February, Lieutenant A.F. Legge (Singapore Volunteer Medical Company) and Gunner J. Barry RGA were killed at the Alexandra Police Station.”*

John is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and on the Royal Garrison Artillery Memorial Plaque in St. Andrew's Cathedral Church, Singapore.

In Memory of

Gunner

J Barry

35514, 78th Coy., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 17 February 1915

Remembered with Honour
Kranji War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Suzanne Make.