



John George Lowe

John George Lowe was born in Gretton in 1894. His father was Thomas William Lowe (from Fleet, Lincolnshire), his mother Elizabeth Lowe (nee Goode) of Gretton. The couple were married in Gretton in 1891.

Family History

Based upon the birthplaces of their children, and Census information, the family lived in Gretton until at least 1895. Sometime between 1895 and 1897 the family relocated to Corby.

In the 1901 Census the family were living in Main Street, Corby. Thomas William Lowe was employed as an ironstone labourer. They lived next door to the Austin family. With Thomas and Elizabeth were their children Thomas David (b. Gretton), John George (b. Gretton), Elizabeth (b. Corby) and Sarah (b. Corby).

Sometime after 1908 the family relocated to Burton Latimer.

In the 1911 Census, they were living in the High Street, Burton Latimer. Thomas William Lowe was employed as a farm labourer. By 1911 Thomas and Elizabeth had four more children Charles (b. Corby), Grace (b. Corby), Lizzie (b. Burton Latimer) and Violet (b. Burton Latimer). John George Lowe was listed as a farm lad; he was 16 years of age.

Military History

John George Lowe served as a Private (3/10042) with the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. His brother, Thomas David Lowe served as a Private (3/10041) in the same regiment. The two brothers enlisted at the same time (6th August 1914) in Northampton.

According to the Medal Cards of both brothers they were sent to France on 23rd November 1914.

At some stage, Private John George Lowe was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion were stationed in Alexandria on 4th August 1914 but returned to the United Kingdom on October 1914. They joined the 24th Brigade of the 8th Division. The battalion landed in Le Havre on 5th November 1914 and the 24th Brigade joined the 23rd Division. The battalion was to serve on the Western Front for the duration of the war.



It is recorded that Private John George Lowe died of wounds on 1st June 1916.

On 30th May 1916 the 2nd Battalion took over trenches (Angres 1) near to Souchez. The battalion's diary records that the trenches were subjected to particularly heavy German shelling on 1st June.

Private Lowe is buried at the Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension.

The extension was begun by French troops in October 1914 and when they moved south in March 1916 to be replaced by Commonwealth forces, it was used for burials by the 6th Casualty Clearing Station.

In November 1917, Barlin began to be shelled and the hospital was moved back to Ruitz, but the extension was used again in March and April 1918 during the German advance on this front.

The extension contains 1,095 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 2 being unidentified. There are 63 French and 13 German burials including 2 unidentified. The extension was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Private John George Lowe is commemorated on the Gretton War Memorial and on Burton Latimer's Roll of Honour.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Gretton Local History Society

Lest We Forget

John George Lowe
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 1st June 1916

Private John George Lowe's brother, Thomas David Lowe (b. Gretton 1893), served in the Northamptonshire Regiment through most of the War until being transferred to the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in May 1918. He was wounded at least twice and suffered from "shell shock". He left the Army in March 1919.



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