



John Hayler

Driver 38331 Royal Engineers

Died 2nd May 1918 aged 20

John was born in Shipley in 1898 to John Scutt Hayler and Mary Jemima Hayler. John and Mary had nine children by 1911 and John was their fourth. The Censuses of 1901 and 1911 show that the family was living at Lackeys, Hooklands. John's father was employed as a carter on a farm. His brothers and sisters were Alice (1893), Arthur (1895), Edith (1896), **John** (1898) Herbert (1899), Harold (1901), Percy (1906), Daisy (1909) and Edwin (1911).

John was educated along with his siblings at Shipley School and the log books record that in 1910 J Hayler passed his Labour Certificate Examination and left school to commence work. This was an achievement worthy of note, as not all pupils took this examination and of those who did, not all passed. The 1911 Census shows he was 13 years old and living at Sunt Farm, Shipley where he was employed by Albert Sawyers as a cow boy.

John enlisted in Horsham, and would have been an early recruit in order to be eligible for the 1914/15 Star which was awarded to personnel who served in any theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915. This also tells us he would not have fought in France or Flanders before November 1914 otherwise the award would have been the 1914 Star. Eligible personnel received one or the other of the Stars, but never both. By the time of John's death his parents had moved to Coulsdon, Surrey and his father was named as the recipient of his effects and War Gratuity.

The Royal Engineers unit to which John was attached at time of his death was stationed at Base Signal Depot, Basra. John died in Basra, Mesopotamia and is buried in Basra War Cemetery. Although the cause of death is not recorded, it is likely he died of illness, as records show that 820,000 men were hospitalised in this theatre of war, caused by the unhygienic conditions in which they lived. Over 28,000 personnel died from sickness and non-battle causes. John is commemorated on Shipley War Memorial.

John was awarded the 1914/15 Star for action in 1915, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal. This trio of medals became known as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred".

In Memory Of

Driver

JOHN HAYLER

Service Number: 38331

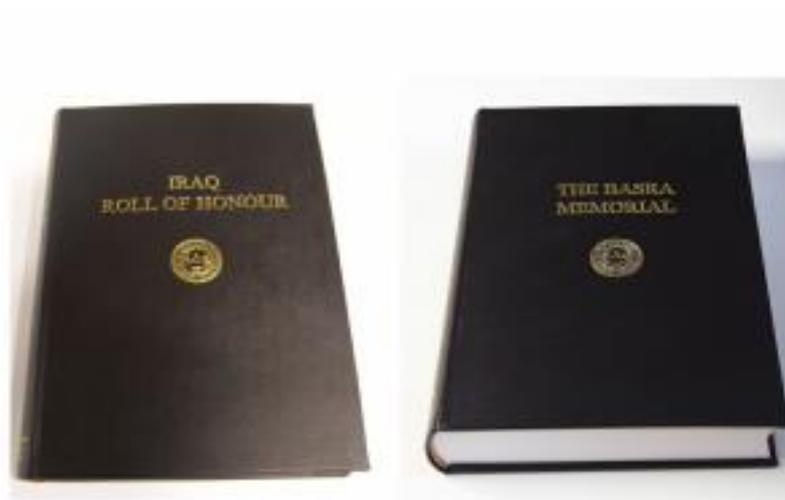
S.S. Park and Depot, Royal Engineers who died on 02 May 1918 Age 20

Son of John Scutt Hayler and Mary Jemima Hayler, of 1, Woodcote Grove Cottage, Coulsdon, Surrey.
Native of Shipley, Sussex.

Remembered with Honour

BASRA WAR CEMETERY

III.Q. 15.



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WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**