

John Henry Norman

29164, 1st/6th Battn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment KIA 20th August 1917



John Henry Norman, known as Jack, was born in Warboys on 25 November 1887. one of 6 children. His parents were Henry and Julia Millicent (née Stokes). His father Henry worked in the brick yard as did John Henry after he left Warboys Board School which he attended from 3 November 1896. The family lived in Heath Drive.

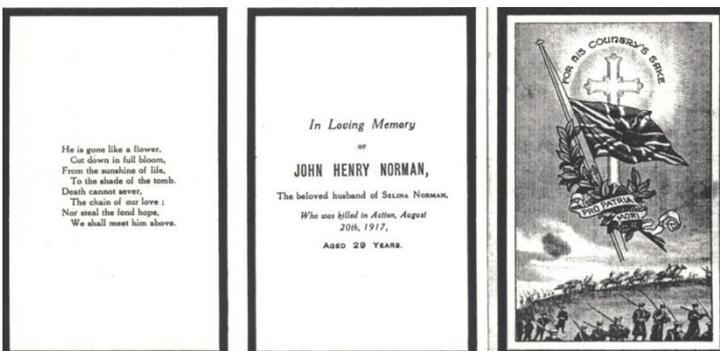
In 1911 he married a local girl Selina Agger and they had 3 children, Florence in 1912, Horace a year later and Dorrie in 1917.

John enlisted in Warboys and joined the Northants Regiment. After 6 June 1917 he transferred to the 1st/6th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and went to France. In August 1917 John wrote to his brother that since joining the Warwickshires he had **“seen a lot of Warboys chaps (and) I go where they go.”** He also complains about the rain, mud and living in wet clothes. His thoughts are all of his family, particularly his wife Lena as he knows **“she worry about me a lot”**

She had good cause to as John’s Battalion fought in the 3rd battle of Ypres usually known as Passchendaele. Not long after the letter was written they fought in the Battle of Langemarck and then in local operations around St. Julien. It is probably during this time that John was killed in action on 20 August 1917, aged 29.

John is buried in the New Irish Farm Cemetery north east of Ypres. He was initially buried elsewhere and this grave found after the war by the Graves Recognition Unit. John was identified by his disc and reburied in 1919.

John left behind the family in this photo. of his wife, children and mother. Also his father and siblings.



His father Henry died the following January but his mother lived until she was 88 dying in 1953. His wife Selina died in 1977.

His son Horace served with the RAF in WW2 and in 1954 oversaw the laying of the trans-Atlantic telephone cable linking the UK and America.