

John Harold White

1889 - 1st April 1953

John Harold White was born in Tuxford, Nottinghamshire in 1889. Tuxford is a village on the edge of the Bassetlaw district of Nottinghamshire through which runs the Great North.

His father was James Lacey White and his mother Jane A (nee Atkinson). He was the third child; with a brother George Jackson aged 8, and a sister Emily who was 5 years of age.

In 1891 the family were living at Manvers Street, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire. John Harold is aged 2 and he now has another brother called Ernest M who was less than a year old. Father James was working as a Joiner & Builder. All the family were born in Tuxford.

In 1911 the family had moved to 38 Croft Road, Smithills, Bolton. (see also James Arthur Longworth on the Memorial who had lived at 20 Croft Road).

On the 1911 Census John's familiar name of 'Jack' is given but the evidence that he is the same person is absolute. He is working as a 'Wood Sawyer & Woodworker'.

At this time his father, who is 57, is described as 'Married' and working as a 'Sub. Estate Agent; however John's mother Jane does not appear on the Census. John is shown as single. Also living with them is Eleanor White (born Ashton, Nottinghamshire) who is a Daughter-in-Law and visiting (but which son's wife is unclear), and Eleanor's son George James White aged 1 who was born in Smithills. Eleanor has been married for 2 years and one child.

The family are well off enough to employ two

servants – Amy Dunsbee aged 16 who was born in Bolton and was a 'Nurse Domestic' and Mary Haw aged 35 (a widow) working as a 'General Servant Domestic' also born in Bolton.

On 26th November 1914 John Harold joined the Army Service Corps as a Private (20657) and is still single. His occupation is described as 'Motor Lorry Driver'. He is 26 years of age. The declaration was

11700 W 6740-966 1500-1014 T & V 1 A. 27 (Gen. No. 2325) Army Form

SHORT SERVICE.
(For the Duration of the War.)

ATTESTATION OF
No. 20657 Name John Harold White Corps Army Service Corps.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... John Harold White
2. What is your full Address? ... 38 Croft Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs.
3. Are you a British Subject? ... Yes
4. What is your Age? ... 26 Years ... Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Motor Lorry Driver
6. Are you Married? ... No
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... Yes
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services? ... Yes

I, John Harold White, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

John Harold White SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Richard H. Pearson Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.
I, John Harold White, swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.
The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Ashton on this 26 day of Nov 1914.
Signature of the Justice: R. H. Pearson

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been completed with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him for the attestation.
If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B, 205 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.
Date 26/11/14 1914
Place Grove Park OC M.D. A.S.C. Approving Officer.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously embossed in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name) (Rank) (Date) re-enlisted in the (Regiment) (on the (Date))

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signed in London. As can be seen from the copy (aside) of his Attestation it is charred in the fire bomb attack on the War Office buildings during WWII. The Awards Rolls show that he went to France on 13th December 1914.

The Army Service Corps was described thus:- "The unsung heroes of the British army in the Great War - the ASC, *Ally Sloper's Cavalry*. Soldiers cannot fight without food, equipment and ammunition. In the Great War, the vast majority of this tonnage, supplying a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from Britain. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the ASC performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won."

On **16th February 1916**, whilst still in the Army, John Harold married at Halliwell Road Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Bolton, Lancashire. He was aged 27 and a Private M 2020657 A.S.C (MT) (Motor Driver) of 38 Croft Road, Smithills, Bolton. He married **Dora Margaret Berry** aged 26 who was shown as living at 167 Eskrick Street, Bolton.

Present were John's father James Lacy White, Estate Agent (was this an agent to a large estate e.g. Smithills?), Dora's father Francis Berry, School Master and George Wills Cripps. They were married by Samuel Joseph Russell.

Dora was born on 24 October 1889 at Farnworth, Bolton and her mother was Elizabeth Ellen (nee Orr).

John survived the war and was awarded the Victory and British medals for service in France. He and Dora had two children, **Arthur Davis** White, and **Neville Harold** White born in 1921 but who died in 1966. Dora died in Bolton on 14 June 1949 aged 59 years. She was living at 7 Colliers Row, Smithills and probate records¹ show that John was alive and that Arthur (a retired taxi driver) was given administration of her estate of £684.1s.3d.

John Harold White of 7 Colliers Row, Smithills died **1st April 1953** at Thornley's Hospital, Farnworth, Bolton aged 64. £500 was left in his estate²; administered by Neville White.

¹ England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills & Administration) 1858-1966

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