



Private John Rudkin Arnold - 45978



6th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Killed in action 25th August 1918

Age 33

Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France, Panel 5

Burbage War Memorial

Forester's Memorial



John Rudkin Arnold was born in Thurlaston in March 1885. He was the fourth of the six children of Thomas and Jane Arnold (nee Rudkin).

The Father Thomas was a Shepherd at Thurlaston before moving to Burbage in 1896. The family lived on Lutterworth Road close to The Hollies where Thomas worked as an agricultural hand.

John may have attended the National School for a short time when moving to Burbage but by the age of thirteen he was employed as a hosiery factory hand at the nearby Robinsons Factory on the Lutterworth Road.

On 8th October 1910 John married Rose Bass and they made their home at 39 Sketchley Road.

Their first child Winnie was born in August 1910 followed by Thomas Douglas on 7 July 1916.

Conscription for married men started in May 1916, however it was not until the following year that John was serving. He may have had the six-month delay clause if working in an essential job. By the Autumn of 1917 he was in the army and after six months in May 1918 he was sent to France.

He became a stretcher bearer which was often a job given to ones who requested a non-combatant role.

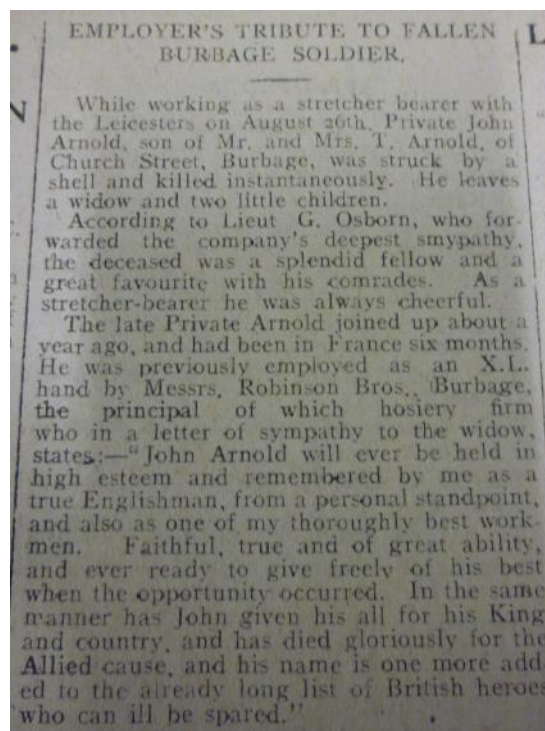
His Lieutenant Osborn described him as a splendid fellow who was a great favourite with his comrades. As a stretcher bearer he was always cheerful.

From August to the 11th November Armistice there was a battle period which is known as the Advance to Victory. This was a series of battles fought in Picardy

and Artois during the last months of the war, when the Allied Forces successfully pushed the German Army eastwards as far as Mons over the German border.

It was in this theatre of war whilst working as a stretcher bearer with the Leicesters on 25th August that John was struck by a shell and killed instantaneously.

Johns former employer sent a letter of Sympathy to his widow Rose. "John Arnold will ever be held in high esteem and remembered by me as a true Englishman, from a personal standpoint and also as one of my thoroughly best workmen. Faithful, true and of great ability and ever ready to give freely of his best when the opportunity occurred. In the same manner John has given all for his king and country and has died gloriously for the allied cause and his name is one more added to the already long list of British heroes who can be ill spared".



Johns name is on the great memorial wall at Vis-en-Artois with 9,835 who died in the final four months of the Great War and have no known grave.

Johns family stayed in the area and his wife remarried Walter Houghton in 1920.

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised		No. of List in which advertised	
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£			s.	d.		
741968	600503	Arnold John Rudkin	6 th Batt. Leicesters Pte 45978	25-8-18 Lichfield	6	10	3	6	10	3	17.0.18	18-12-18	Wid. Rose	6	10	3
				10-18	1	3	1				18-1-19	18-12-18	Wid. Rose	1	3	1
				11-18	1	3	1				24-4-19	18-12-18	Wid. Rose	1	17	3
				3-19	1	17	3				29-4-19	18-12-18	Wid. Rose	3	-	-
					3											175

War Gratuity – John Rudkin Arnold