

John Edward Riley

(1886-1917)

In Memory of

Private

John Edward Riley

23269, 1st/4th Bn., The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment who died on 04 June 1917 Age 31

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Riley, of 3, Sandy Bank Rd., Edgworth, Bolton, Lancs.

Remembered with Honour

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

John Edward Riley was born in Edgworth on the 26th April 1886³⁴ the son of Thomas Riley and Mary Hannah Mather of Sandy Bank Road, Edgworth. As a teenager John worked in the local Calico Printworks, initially as a Labourer and then as a 'Back Tenter'.

During the First World War, John served with the 1/4th (Territorial) Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment having enlisted in Bolton. Unfortunately, no service records survive for John other than that of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission certifying his death on 4th June 1917 at Ypres.

War Record

Unfortunately John's service records have not survived. The CWGC record above shows:

Rank: Private

Service No: 23269

Date of Death: 04/06/1917

Age: 31

Regiment/Service: The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, 1st/4th Bn.

Cemetery: LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY

It is not known exactly when, but John's Battalion landed in France sometime after January 1916.

John Edward Riley was killed on 4th June 1917 at Ypres; the Germans launching no fewer than 67 'minnies' against 'B' Company that day. John Edward Riley's mother received his British War Medal, the Victory Medal and a memorial plaque.

Family History^{1,3,5}

Data from the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census returns and the Lancashire BMD website show John's family as follows:

Father:	Thomas Riley	b. 1850 Manchester	married 1883
Mother:	Mary Hannah Mather	b. 1862 Edgworth	Bolton Register Office
Children:	Elizabeth H	b. 1885 Edgworth	
	John Edward	b. 1886(26 April) Edgworth	
	Arthur J	b. 1891 Edgworth	died aged 0
	Joseph	b. 1892 (28 June) Edgworth	
	Agnes	b. 1894 (29 August) Edgworth	
	Herbert	b. 1897 Edgworth	probably died aged 0
	Albert	b. 1898 (26 March) Edgworth	
	Florence May	b. 1902 Edgworth	
	Another boy, their first-born, died at birth in 1883		

In all relevant census returns the family are living at no. 3 Sandy Bank Road.

In 1891 John's grandparents George (a retired engine driver) & Hannah Mather are living in the same house.

John enrolled at Edgworth Wesleyan School on the 13th October 1890, and his address was given in the register as Grub Street, Edgworth (?). Joseph enrolled on the 19th May 1896; Agnes on the 16th June 1898; Albert on 30th June 1902 (they are all given the Sandy Bank Road address).³⁴

In 1901 John is a labourer at the local Calico Printworks, and his father, Thomas, is listed as a 'Block Printer'.

John's father Thomas died in 1909. The following are taken from the records of burials at St. Anne's, Turton:³⁵

Riley, John Edward (killed in action in France) - d. 5.6.1917 age:29 - Old Ground Right M2

Riley, Mary - d. 24.11.1927 age:86 bur. 29.11.1927 A20 - Old Ground Right M2

Riley, Thomas - d. 30.4.1909 age:59 - Old Ground Right M2

(Comment: The Mary listed is almost certainly John Edward's mother, as the death of a Mary H Riley was registered in Bolton in the last quarter of 1927, but the age was **66**, which fits the above date of birth of Mary Hannah Riley.)

BURIALS in the Parish of Turton in the County of Lancashire in the year One thousand eight hundred and NINE

No. 919

<u>Thomas Riley</u>	<u>3 Sandy Bank Road Edgworth</u>	<u>May 3rd 1909</u>	<u>59 Year</u>	<u>Michael Pappalardo (Inspector under Burial Act)</u>
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No. 917

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In 1911 John was living with his now widowed mother and siblings Lizzie, Joseph, Agnes, Albert, and Florry. John was working as a 'Back Tenter' at the Calico Printworks.

Researcher: Alan Woodward

Standard References: 1,3,5,15,33,34,35