

John Connolly

Twemlow Lane, Cranage, Holmes Chapel

Killed in Action 25th April 1917



His Story

John William Connolly was born in Lostock Gralam to William (a brick layers labourer) and Mary in August 1893.

In 1901 he was living at 16 Brook Street in Lostock Gralam with his family including his brother Thomas Howard.

By 1911 he had moved to Cranage and was working for Arthur Winstanley, a hay and straw merchant. On the census he was described as a 'general servant domestic' and a 'straw carter'

His War Record

In September 1914 he enlisted at Northwich into the 12th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment on the same day as his brother. His number was 13900 just one different from his brother (see separate sheet).

During his career he was promoted to sergeant and saw action in **Serbia** where he was killed on 25 April 1917 aged 23 just one day before his brother who was in the same battle zone.

He was buried in Grave F.1279 at Karasouli Military Cemetery. Karasouli Military Cemetery is on the edge of the town of Polikastro (formerly Karasouli) which lies some 56 kilometres from Thessaloniki. The cemetery was begun in September 1916 for the use of casualty clearing stations on the Doiran front. At the Armistice, it contained about 500 burials but was greatly increased when graves were brought in from other cemeteries including Ardzan (Arjan, or Harajinovo), which is close to a village two miles West of Caussica, where the 12th Cheshires began a front-line cemetery of 22 British graves.