

BEARDWOOD, JOHN ASHCROFT H/39574 Private 9th Cav. Brigade 1st Cav. Div.

THE 8TH (KING'S ROYAL IRISH) HUSSARS

Born Leyland Enlisted Not known Living Leyland

Died Germany 21st February 1919

Ref: 'Commonwealth War Graves Commission' and Mrs S. Robson, granddaughter to the above; and other items below.

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser 8th March 1919

Official intimation has been received by Mrs Beardwood, 122 Leyland Lane, Leyland, of the death from pneumonia, following influenza, on 21st February 1919 at Cologne, of her husband Pte J. A. Beardwood, 8th Hussars.

Pte Beardwood, who was 27 years of age, joined up early in 1914. He was discharged in 1915 but was called to the colours in 1917. Prior to joining up he was employed as a painter at the Leyland Motor Works. He attended St. John's and was a member of the choir.

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser Sat. 5th April 1919

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday evening, March 30th, for Pte John Beardwood, 8th Hussars, who died at Cologne hospital on February 21st, 1919.

In his address, the Vicar, Mr F. E. Hutchinson, mentioned all those who had fallen up to the Armistice – some 70 men.

Leyland St. Andrew's Parish Magazine April 1919

At the evening service on Sunday March 30th, 1919, we commemorated John Beardwood who had died in hospital in France (sic) (précis).

John Beardwood's name appears on the following local memorials:-

War Memorial, Church Road, Leyland
Memorial Plaque in St. Andrew's, Leyland

A Memorial Inscription is on the family grave in St. Andrew's Churchyard

John A. Beardwood, who died of pneumonia (on active service)
at Cologne February 21st, 1919. Aged 28 Years. Was interred at
Sudfriedhof Cemetery February 24th, 1919.

Continued

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

John Ashcroft Beardwood is buried in the:-

COLOGNE SOUTHERN CEMETERY, GERMANY

Grave Ref: Plot II Row F Grave No. 11

Next-of-kin Information:- Son of James and Ellen Beardwood; husband of Olive Bowling (formerly Beardwood), of 2, Sumner Street, Leyland, Preston.

Family information on John Ashcroft Beardwood from Mrs S. Robson:-

“John Ashcroft Beardwood was born at Forge Street, Leyland 12th April 1890, the eldest son of James and Ellen (née Ashcroft) Beardwood.

He married Olive Preston 20th September 1914, when his bride was 21 years of age, at Leyland Parish Church. Their home was 432 Leyland Lane, Earnshaw Bridge, Leyland.

He died of pneumonia on 21st February 1919 in Cologne and was buried at Cologne on the 24th”

Mrs Robson later sent me photocopies of six items:-

- 1) Letter from the Cavalry Record Office in York dated 28th Feb. 1919, notifying the next of kin of the death of Pte. Beardwood at the 64th Casualty Clearing Station, France (sic) on 21st Feb. 1919.
- 2) C.W.G.C. sheet “In Memory of J. Beardwood” etc. with full details of the Cologne South Cemetery.
- 3) Inscription on the ‘Beardwood’ grave in St. Andrew’s Churchyard, Leyland.
- 4) Letter from the sister who nursed John Beardwood at the 64th Casualty Clearing Station, B.C.F., dated 14th March 1919. It states that he was buried by the Services Chaplain to the Forces – the Rev. Ridel. The letter is signed ‘A. M. Stanley, Sister’.
- 5) A poignant letter from John to his wife and child, written three days before he died.
- 6) Two photographs: one of John Ashcroft, and the other of his grave in Germany, c.1919.

Note 1:- John A. Beardwood’s name does not appear in the relevant volume of ‘Soldiers Died’.

Note 2:- The abbreviation ‘CAV’ in the C.W.G.C. details above = CAVALRY.

Note 3:- The addresses given above refer to the same house: No 122 became the present day No 432 Leyland Lane on the re-numbering of Leyland in the 1930s.

Beardwood, John Ashcroft.

W.E. Waring 2003