

Private John BAUMBER



Born at Martin Dales on 6 October 1897 John was the youngest son of Arthur and Mary Elizabeth Baumber. After leaving school he worked as a farm labourer employed by Mr W Flintham of Ruskington Fen. In May 1915 he enlisted at Lincoln into the 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment and after training, chiefly at Belton Park and Saltfleetby, was drafted to France in June 1916. John came home on short leave in August 1917 before returning to the trenches.

On the 22 November 1917 an extremely heavy barrage opened on the battalion reserve line between Loos and Hulluch killing four men and wounding another six, including Pte John Baumber. He was taken to Casualty Cleaning Station No.1 at Chocques where he succumbed to his injuries and died the next day.

Dear Mrs Baumber,

You will have received the very sad news of your boy's death before you receive this letter, but I am sure you will be glad to hear more about him. He was brought to this hospital on Thursday the 22nd ult and he was seriously wounded. Everything possible was done for him and he had the very best nursing and every care and attention. He rallied towards 8pm and seemed better and slept for several hours, but in the morning he got worse and gradually sunk, passing away at 1pm on Friday. His wound was in the back and I believe it had affected his spine as he said that he had no pain. I told him I would write you and asked him if he had any message to send, and he said 'give them my love and say I hope to get home soon.' Poor boy, he has gone to his last home and joined the ranks of the heroes, also have given their lives for us all.' I am sure that he is at rest with Him whose battle he has been fighting and who said 'Great love hath no man than he lay down his life for his friends'. Like our Saviour, he will have his wounds to show. I laid him to rest this afternoon and my thoughts went out to you and yours who were so far away. May God give you strength to bear this great blow and comfort you in your grief. We must all look forward to the great day of meeting when there shall be no more pain, sorrow or parting. With my deepest sympathy in your great loss and with sincerest good wishes.

Yours very truly, R A Lake, Church of England Chaplain.

