

Surname	Andrews
Forename	Joseph
Initials	J
Age	
Honours/Awards	
Date died	19/07/1917
Rank	Corporal
Regiment	Yorkshire Regiment
Unit/Squadron	5 th Bn.
Service Number	240873
Cemetery/Memorial	Heninel Communal Cemetery Extension
Grave Reference	C .19
Further Information	Resided at 42 Prescott Street, New Brighton, Wallasey. Educated at St. James' Church School (Magazine Lane). Was killed instantaneously by a shell whilst on duty in a trench, France.



News Report

Wirral Railway Employee Killed

Fine Soldierly Qualities

We regret to report the death of Corpl. Joseph Andrews, of 42, Prescott Street, New Brighton, who was killed in action on July 19. The deceased soldier, who belonged to the Cheshire Regt., enlisted at the outbreak of the war, and previously worked with his father. Mr. Joseph Andrews who is in the employ of the Wirral Railway in the permanent way department. He was well-known to Wallasey golfers, as he assisted his brother. Mr. Isaac Glover Andrews, who was groundsman on the Wallasey golf course. He was educated at St. James' Church School (Magazines), New Brighton, and was killed instantaneously by a shell whilst on duty in a trench.

It is interesting to hear that the Wirral Railway Co., staff, through their soldiers'

comforts funds, of which Mr. G. Harris is hon. Secretary and treasurer, keep in touch with their old employees with the forces, and several letters of appreciation from Corpl. Andrews have been received.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews have received several letters of sympathy. The lieutenant of the deceased's Company wrote:-

"It may be a little consolation to you to know that he was killed instantaneously by a shell whilst on duty in a trench and therefore suffered no pain. My regret is very sincere, as I knew him so very well, and always as an excellent young soldier and a man. I first knew him in March, 1916, when he was in my platoon in the capacity of a 'Company runner.' After being to England wounded, I returned some two months ago, and one of the first of the 'old faces' I saw was that of your son, when I was pleased to note he had been promoted to Corporal. Each time in the line since my return I had reason to learn that my trust in your son's soldierly qualities was not misplaced – he was always a most reliable leader while his cheerfulness and excellent disposition made him loved by all – officers and men. These facts, coupled with the knowledge that he was one of the 'oldest' of my comrades-in-arms made his loss very real to me, and my sympathy with you is very genuine. It is particularly unfortunate that he had only been in the trenches with us for one day before being hit, as he had been on a 'gas course' – as you probably know he was a 'gas instructor.'

The officer in charge of the Platoon wrote:-

"I am writing you these few lines on behalf of 15 platoon, who wish to convey to you their deepest sympathies on the loss of your son. He suffered no pain as he was killed instantly. As to what part of the line he was in at the time, I am not able to tell you, but he was carried away with others and buried in a cemetery where in all probability his grave will be registered. He was always very cheerful, and under the most adverse circumstances was courageous, and was showed a good example to all that came under his command. He will be greatly missed, not only by his platoon, but by the whole Company. Please accept our sympathies in your great bereavement.'

The Company-Sergt.-Major said:-

"It is with very deep regret that I have to inform you of the very sad loss and bereavement owing to the death of your son, No. 13479, Corpl. Joseph Andrews, of the Cheshire Regt., who was killed in action by enemy shell fire. As he is one of the first of the boys that joined me nearly three years ago I feel his loss very much, knowing what strenuous and hard times we have gone through and you will notice by the date of his death that it was the anniversary of the date of his arrival in France two years ago. I know it is hard to lose him after going through what he has done during that time, and I can assure you his loss is felt by all who knew him in the Battalion. I always found him a good, willing soldier, and cannot speak too highly of him."

A friend wrote saying:-

"I met him in the trench a few hours previously, and just before that I, along with four others had been buried with a shell. I can assure you he was much liked and respected by all who came in contact with him. He was one of the old lads of whom I am sorry to say there are very left."

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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