

JOHN WILLIAM DAKIN

1885–10.10.1916 aged 31 years

Private 32565 16th Battalion (Welbeck Rangers) Sherwood Foresters



John was the son of the late Samuel and Elizabeth Dakin of Town Street (Leake Road), Gotham. The 1891 census has John living with his grandparents, John and Ann Dakin on Town Street, which fits with the “late” parents. He was killed in action on the Schwaben redoubt on the Somme aged 31, though the Methodist Roll records that he died of wounds. The Schwaben redoubt was a fortified German stronghold and was a first day objective for the Ulstermen of the 36th Division on the first day of the battle of the Somme. The Ulstermen took the redoubt but were not supported and it fell back into German hands where it continued to inflict casualties until retaken. There is a theory that the Ulstermen were deliberately left unsupported on the 1st July to ‘eliminate’ them and remove them from the political ‘game’ in Ireland (the Ulstermen were protestant and loyalist to a man) John has no known grave and is recorded on the Thiepval memorial pier and face 10C,10D and 11A.