

# John Dixon



In 1871 John Dixon was living at High Swinklebank, Longsleddale, Westmorland with his parents John and Ellen Dixon. In 1881 he was living at Latha (Laitha), Bolton and in 1911 his parents were living at Bolton Hall.

John emigrated to Canada and during the war enlisted (service number 760011) with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Labor Corps. He died on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917 aged 47 and is remembered with Honour at La Laiterie Military Cemetery, Belgium. The cemetery is located 7 kilometres south of Ieper town centre and there are 751 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated there.

John had four brothers James, Anthony, Lancelot and Robert and one sister, Alice.

Entry in Cumberland News 25 August 1917:

*Private John Dixon, of the Canadians, third son of Mr Dixon, Battlebarrow, Appleby, and late of Bolton Mill (Hall?) was killed in action on July 31<sup>st</sup>. He was 47 years of age. He went to Canada some years ago, and the family did not know that he was in the Army until they received the notification that he was killed. The whereabouts of another son is unknown.*

### Labour Battalions

Four Canadian Labour Battalions for work in rear areas were organized in England in December 1916 and January 1917 using men not fit for service in the trenches (B. Category). The intention was to have one battalion attached to each Canadian division in France but, in fact, all were employed in railway construction under the Director of Labour (British). In November 1917 two of the battalions finally went to the Canadian Corps and the other two became battalions of Canadian Railway troops.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Labour Battalion** was organized at Seaford in January 1917 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. H. McKinney. Most of the personnel were from reserve battalions in England and the Battalion arrived in France 15 March 1917 with a strength of 12 officers and 976 other ranks.

War Diary entry 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917

*"Owing to heavy artillery fire, work was practically impossible in the forward area as the result of a new offensive. We had several casualties viz; 633746 Pte Rodgers A, **760011 Pte Dixon J, killed in action**, 766585 Pte Godward E, 53775 Pte Betts J, 463651 Pte McDonald D, 490634 Pte Vickers R, 417152 Pte Jones A, 472759 Pte Letendre J wounded. Railway construction continued."*

*The diary indicates that from 12<sup>th</sup> July the Battalion was undertaking Railway work on the line from Dickebusch to Vorrmegeele*

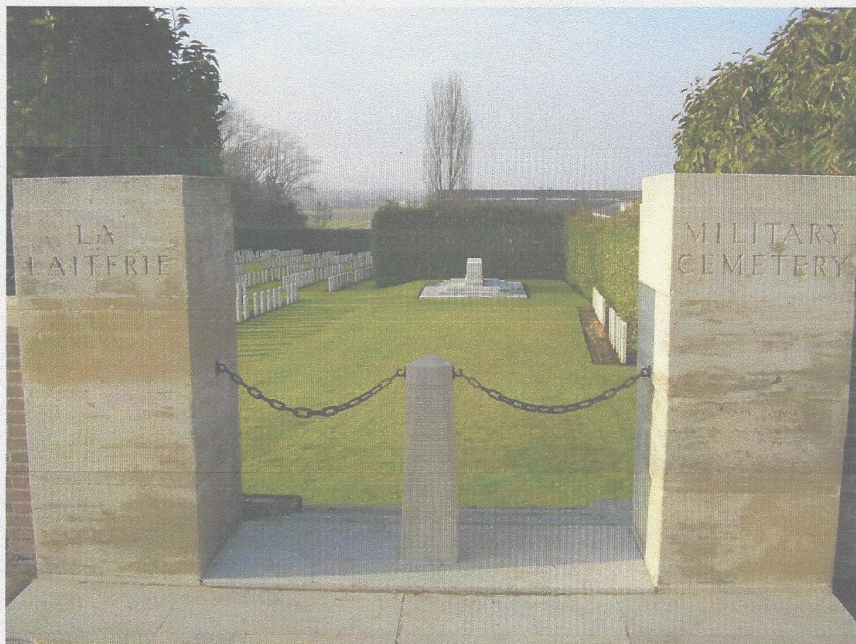
In Memory of

Private

**J Dixon**

760011, 4th Bn., Canadian Labour Corps who died on 31 July 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**La Laiterie Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



## Location Information

La Laiterie Military Cemetery is located 7 Kms south of Ieper town centre on the Kemmelseweg (N331), connecting Ieper to Kemmel.

## Historical Information

The cemetery, named from a dairy farm, was begun in November 1914 and used until October 1918 by units holding this sector of the front. The different plots were, to a great extent, treated as regimental burial grounds; the majority of the graves in Plots II, III and X, for instance, were those of the 26th, 25th and 24th Canadian Infantry Battalions, respectively, and all but one of the graves in Plot VIII are those of the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. On 25 April 1918, the cemetery fell into German hands, but it was retaken at the beginning of September. After the Armistice, graves were brought into the cemetery from the battlefields north and north-east of Kemmel.

There are now 751 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 180 of the burials are unidentified and special memorials commemorate two servicemen whose graves were destroyed in later fighting.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.