

**JOHN ROBERT CLAXTON born in 1887 in North Elmham, Norfolk
he was killed in France on 3rd May 1917**

John, known as Robert was born in North Elmham Norfolk although on his army records it states he was born in Langham Norfolk and in other documents his birth place is given as Brisley Norfolk. His parents were William Claxton, who was born 1845 in Horningtoft and Mary born 1848. The 1881 Census suggests Mary came from Sussex.

By the 1891 Census William Claxton had died. John aged 11 was living with his widowed mother and siblings at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Brisley. His mother was working as a seamstress.

John's siblings were: William born 1876, Scrita born 1877, Alice born 1890, Charles born 1886, Harriett born 1884, Mabel born 1883 and Bessie born 1887.

John married in 1909 Lily Elizabeth Soame from Necton she was born 1890. They had two children during their marriage. In the 1911 Census John, Lily and their first child were living together at The Red Lion Public House in Brisley.

John enlisted in Cromer on 10th December 1915. He was 28 years old when he enlisted. He joined the Norfolk Regiment but then transferred to the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment.

In 1917 the Essex Regiment were at Arras, they fought in action during the the First and Third Battles of the Scarpe, before heading north for the Third Battle of Ypres, where they fought in The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle and The First Battle of Passchendaele.

John was promoted to Corporal. He was awarded The British War Medal and The Victory Medal. His army number was 41074.

He died on 3 May 1917 at the age of 30, and was buried in Pas-de-Calais, France.

A war gratuity of £9.18.0d was paid to John's widow.

Memorial:

Name:	John Robert Claxton
Death Date:	3 May 1917
Cemetery:	The Arras Memorial at Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras
Burial Country:	France
Service number:	41074
Region or Memorial:	France

with the Colours and in the Army

ATTESTATION OF

Name Robert Claxton Corps 27 Mudds

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment

- 1. What is your Name? ... Robert Claxton
- 2. What is your full Address? ... Langham Norfolk
- 3. Are you a British Subject? ... Yes
- 4. What is your Age? ... 23 Years 9 Months
- 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Sign Labourer
- 6. Are you Married? ... Yes
- 7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... No
- 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... Yes
- 9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... Yes
- 10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... Yes (Name Arthur Ste Corps 16th Buff Regt)
- 11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
 For the Duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct, 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, Depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. ... Yes

I, Robert Claxton do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

R. Claxton SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
A. Ste Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Robert Claxton swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at GROMER on this 10 DEC 1915 day of 19 1915.

Signature of the Justice Samuel Dairs

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 16th Buff Regt.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 10. 4. 1916 Place Norwich

J. Wilson Approving Officer.
Com. Depn Mlt Regt

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
 ‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

The Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, and to endorse in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name)

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
CLAXTON. J.P.	* 7th Inf. B. Essex R.	ajcpl	25502 41074.
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	x K/2/102 B.15.	741	
BRITISH	do.	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K 1900.

Correspondence.

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Address.

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