

KIPLING WORLD WAR TWO DEATHS – 1940

Captain John Wilson Kipling

The first first Kipling death in WW2, and the only one in 1940, was that of Captain John Wilson Kipling on 20th May.

·KIPLING, Capt. JOHN WILSON, 56131. 10th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry. 20th May, 1940. Age 37. Son of Charles and Isabella Harrison Kipling; husband of Doris Kipling, of Spennymoor, Co. Durham. A.C.I.S. Plot 8. Row C. Grave 8.

John was of the **Mickleton** Kipling Family Group, his father being Charles Kipling, in 1911 a cashier in the Co-op at Counden, County Durham.

John had long been a Territorial soldier with the Durham Light Infantry, a promotion to 2nd Lieutenant being gazetted in 1933.

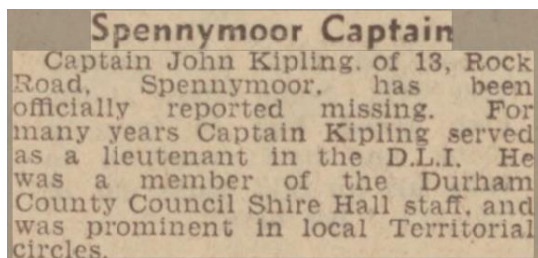
6th Bn. Durham L.I.—John Wilson Kipling to be 2nd Lt. 28th June 1933.

The London Gazette. 27 June 1933

After war broke out, John was transferred to the newly-formed 10th (Territorial) Battalion, which was deployed on the France/Belgium border in April 1940 as part of the 70th Brigade. John died on 20th May when the brigade was spread along the roads south of Arras travelling west. Here they were ambushed by German armour, and without heavy weapons their defence became a series of isolated and confused company actions.

He is buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, south of Arras. The inscription on his headstone reads “EVER REMEMBERED BY WIFE DORIS AND SON PETER JOHN, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM, ENGLAND”

His loss was reported in the local newspaper.



Newcastle Evening Chronicle - Tuesday 16 July 1940

Probate was granted in 1942.

