**BLACKLEDGE, John**

Blackledge, John aged 28

John was born at 10 Franklin Street, Darwen, December  
27, 1889, the son of James Blackledge and Betsy Mather. Shortly after his birth the family moved to 21 Bank Street and by the time of the 1901 census the family were living at 27 Radfield Avenue by which time John was working as a cotton weaver.   
  
He must have been good at his job as later was promoted to an overlooker.   
  
On November 6, 1915 he married Margaret Ann, daughter of James Fletcher, at Railway Road Methodist Church by which time his father had passed away.

As John's army records have not survived we know very  
little of his activities during the war. However, he joined The King's  
(Liverpool Regiment) (No. 23423) and later transferred to the Labour Corps (No. 130126).   
  
Without his records we don't know if he saw active service overseas but his death took place at his home, 16 Cobden Street, Darwen on April 15, 1918 and he was buried three days later.   
  
Death was due to double lobar pneumonia from which he suffered for two days.

On the anniversary of his death his widow inserted the following in the   
"In Memoriam" column in the *Darwen Weekly Advertiser*:

BLACKLEDGE - In loving memory of Pte. John Blackledge, (Labour Corps), the beloved husband of Margaret Ann Blackledge, who died April 15th 1918, aged 28 years, and was interred at the Darwen Cemetery, April 18th.

Rest in peace, O dearest husband,

Though your loss I still deplore,

Fleeting time will re-unite us,

You have only gone before,

I miss him and mourn him in silence unseen,

And dwell on the memory of joys that have been.

From his loving Wife, 3 Radfield Avenue, (late 16 Cobden Street, Darwen)

There was a similar entry from his brothers who were serving in Salonica and France.

Grave Ref: Section  
K.443  (OS Ref: SD SD 69808,20308)

                                   Thanks to Tony Foster November 2011  
                                     updated September 2013