John Hallas





Rank: - Private

Number: - 3/947

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 18th November 1916 aged 23 years

Cemetery: - Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France C.36

Family Details

John was born in Dewsbury on 3rd December 1892 the son of Thomas and Winifred Hallas nee Greenwood who had married on the 6th October 1889, Dewsbury St John's Church. The family was living at Swallow Road, Westtown, Dewsbury.

In 1901 the family was living at 8, Princess Street, Dewsbury and Thomas was a coal miner hewer. Thomas who was born in Ossett in 1871 died in 1910.

Mary Ellen was born on 13th March 1896 but sadly died in 3rd Qtr. 1909. In 1911 John was living with his mother who said she was a widow in a two roomed home at 34, High Street, Westtown Dewsbury and he was employed as a coal miner hurrier.

On the 10th January 1914 he married Margaret Alice Mooney at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green, Dewsbury. Winifred Ann was born later the same year.

Service Details

The 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry landed at Le Havre on the 16th August 1914.

In 1914 they fought at

The Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat, including the Action of Elouges
The Battle of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois
The Battle of the Marne
The Battle of the Aisne
The Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914
The First Battle of Ypres

In 1915 they fought at
The Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60

In I916 they fought at
The Battle of Albert (1-13 July) The Battle of Bazentin 14-17 July)
The Battle of the Ancre (13-18 November)
which were all phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

The British force attacked in fog and snow on 13 November from the very same front lines from which the attack had failed so badly on 1 July. Beaumont-Hamel was finally captured but Serre once again proved an objective too far. Considerable casualties were sustained before the battle was called off.

John died on the 18th November 1916 during the attack on Beaumont Hamel, which was one of the last offensives of the Battle of the Somme.

John was awarded the 1914 Star + Clasp, the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group