



Tolson Hemingway

1883 – 1916



Tolson was born in Dewsbury on 5th November 1883. His parents were James and Elizabeth Hemingway (née Tolson). Their marriage was registered in the Dewsbury District in early 1869. In addition to Tolson they had two daughters, Mary born in 1871, and Sarah Ann, born in 1875 but who died three years later. James, a grocer, died in 1885.

Tolson attended Boothroyd Council School. From an early age he was a good singer, one of the choristers at St John the Baptist Church. This love of singing continued into adulthood where, as a bass vocalist, he was a member of the St James' Glee Society.

Tolson married Sarah Ward at Dewsbury Parish Church on 24th November 1906. The couple had two children; Daughter Phyllis was born in 1908, followed by son Eric in 1914. The family lived at Eddison Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Prior to enlisting on 12th August 1915, Tolson worked as a Shunter at Ingham's Thornhill Collieries. He went out to France in the spring of 1916, serving as Private 4785 with the local Territorial Battalion, the 1st/4th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He had only been in France about three months when he was killed in action on 7th July 1916 during the battle of the Somme, although newspaper reports indicate 9th July. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial along with over 72,000 British and Commonwealth Servicemen who have no known grave.

Tolson is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in the Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Tolson Hemingway

4785, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 07 July 1916 Age 32

Husband of Sarah Hemingway, of 15, Eddison St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

