



Leonard Kendrick

1896 – 1916

Leonard was born in Hunslet, Leeds in 1896 and baptised on 28th October that same year at St. Peter's Church, Hunslet Moor. His father was Thomas Kendrick, an Iron Puddler born in Motherwell, Scotland around 1858 and died in 1934. His mother was Mary Eliza (née Wortley) born in Holbeck, Leeds in 1855 and died in 1909. They were married at on 21st November 1875 at St. Peter's Parish Church, Leeds.

Their other children were; James, born in 1876, Henry, born in 1877, Arthur, born in 1879, Lily, born in 1880 and died in 1881, Eliza, born in 1889, Albert, born in 1891 and served in World War 1, Lily, born in 1893, Violet, born in 1894 and died in 1895. On the 1881 Census they lived at 25, Bedford Row, Hunslet and in 1891 at 9, Burton Row, Hunslet; Thomas is not recorded on the latter census.

On the 1901 Census Mary is living in Rotherham as the wife of Albert Harrison, an Iron Puddler aged 45 and born in Birmingham, they had three children; Isabella Harrison, born in 1900, Samuel Clifford Harrison, born in 1902 and John Harrison, born in 1903 and died in 1904. No conclusive records have been found for an Albert Harrison and it is thought that this is Thomas Kendrick who for some unknown reason had to change his name and get away from the Dewsbury area. The 1911 census records Thomas Kendrick as head of the family with Leonard, Isabella and Clifford (both recorded as Kendrick) living at 20, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees.

Leonard was a single man who was educated at Holy Innocents Church School in Thornhill Lees; he worked at Kilner Brothers glass bottle factory and later moved to live and work in St. Helens, probably at Pilkington's Glass Works.

He was with the Army Special Reserve prior to the war and was called up at the outbreak, enlisting in Warrington and was sent to the Western Front on 21st September 1914. He served initially as Private 1629 with the 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment and was later transferred to the 7th Battalion. His Service Record has survived and states that he was found guilty of cowardice on 6th March 1916 by a Field General Court Martial and sentenced to 10 years penal servitude. This sentence was not carried out, as it appears he re-joined his Regiment. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 9th July 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Leonard was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal which were initially forfeited because of his military conviction. The decision was subsequently reversed in 1921.

In view of his Court-Martial, it is intriguing to read that Captain J.D. Ritson of the South Lancashire Regiment wrote to his father at his home in Bury Square, Thornhill Lees: - *"It is with deepest regret I have to inform you of the death of Private L. Kendrick, who was killed in action on July 8th and died a soldier's death. He was a brave fellow, and his death was a great sorrow to us all. Please allow me to convey to you my deepest sympathy and that of the whole company in your sad bereavement."*

Leonard is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Oak Panel War Memorial in Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley.

