



John Richard Pennock

1890 – 1916

John was born in Dewsbury on 1st October 1890. His father was Alfred Harrison Pennock, a miner (hewer) born in Beeston, Leeds in 1859 and died in 1946. His mother was Elizabeth (née Greenwood) born in Earlsheaton in 1865 and died in 1919. They were married on 27th December 1884 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

Their other children were; Eva, born in 1885, Arthur, born in 1886, William, born in 1889 and died in 1893, James, born in 1892, Selina, born in 1894, May, born in 1897, George William, born in 1898 and died in 1900, George Herbert, born in 1901 and Edwin, born in 1905.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 26, Wallace Buildings, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at Dale Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 12, Glencoe Terrace, Thornton Road, Thornhill Lees.

John was a single man who worked as a beamer in Wormalds and Walker's blanket mill.

He served as Private 4930 in "D" Company 1st/5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 24th June 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 13th September 1916 and was initially buried in Paisley Avenue Cemetery which was on the south side of Thiepval Wood. In 1920 his remains were exhumed and he was reburied in Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, Somme, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Authuille is a village 5 kilometres north of the town of Albert on the road to Grandcourt. The Cemetery is 1 kilometre east of the village. On 1st July 1916, the First Day of the Battle of the Somme, the 32nd Division, which included the 1st Dorsets and the 11th (Lonsdale) Battalion of the Border Regiment attacked the German line at this point and stormed the Leipzig Salient, but were compelled to retire later in the day. In the spring of 1917, after the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, V Corps cleared these battlefields and made a number of new cemeteries, including Lonsdale No.1 and No.2. Lonsdale Cemetery No.1 (the present Lonsdale Cemetery) contained originally 96 graves, the great majority of which were those of officers and men of the 1st Dorsets and the 11th Borders. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves, almost all of 1916, were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from other small burial grounds. Lonsdale Cemetery now contains 1,542 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 816 of the burials are unidentified

John is 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.

In Memory of

Private

John Richard Pennock

4930, "D" Coy. 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 September 1916 Age 25

Son of Mr. A. H. Pennock, of 12, Glencoe Terrace, Thornton Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.