



John Henry Winter 1873 – 1916

John was born in Dewsbury in 1873. His father was James Henry Winter, a mason's labourer born in Sheffield in 1838 and died in 1918. His mother was Anne Jane (née Jackson) born in Manchester in 1845 and died in 1902.

John was married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 30th April 1892 to Sarah Ellen Mooney (born in 1872 and died in 1901) their children were; Annie Elizabeth, born in 1893 and died in 1894, Sarah Ann, born in 1895 and died in 1896, James, born in 1898 and died in 1898 and John Henry, born in 1901 and died in 1902.

He was remarried at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 12th January 1907 to Bridget Pendergast (born in 1871 and died in 1911). John was a plasterer and whitewasher who worked for Mr T. Carroll in Watergate, Dewsbury. On the 1911 Census he was living at 11, Junction Road, Dewsbury.

He had served 10 prison sentences for drunkenness between 1901 and 1913 and was described in the local press as "*A well-known Dewsbury character*"

He enlisted in 1914 serving as Private 3/2963 in the 7th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme on 25th September 1916 during the attempt to recapture Mouquet Farm, which was part of the Battle of Pozières. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The attack on Mouquet Farm began on 23rd July 1916 with attacks by the Reserve Army and it was captured by the 3rd Division of the Canadian Corps on 16th September. The farm was lost to a German counter-attack, before being recaptured on 26th September, during an attack by the 11th (Northern) Division as part of the Battle of Thiepval Ridge from 26th to 28th September, in which the 6th Battalion East Yorkshire (Pioneers) cleared out the last German defenders.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

John 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

John Henry Winter

3/2963, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

WINTER J. H.