



John Henry Holmes

1884 - 1917

John was born on in Hanging Heaton on 23rd May 1884. His father was also John Holmes, a Railway Platelayer born in Toynton All Saints, Lincolnshire in 1854 and died in 1932. His mother was Alice (nee Goodman) born in 1857 in Hepworth, Suffolk and died in 1932. They were married in Dewsbury in 1878.

Their other children were; Albert Edward, born in 1879 and died in 1879, Annie, born in 1880, Harriet, born in 1881, Ethel Alice, born in 1887, Charlie, born in 1889 and Lewis, born in 1892 and served in World War 1.

On the 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 4, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton.

John was educated at Mill Lane School, Hanging Heaton and also attended Hanging Heaton Methodist Sunday School. He was married on 17th September 1906 to Elizabeth Rigg (born in 1883 and died in 1963) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. In 1911 they lived at 91, Low Rothery Yard, Lidgett Lane, Batley Carr. He worked as a teamer in the woollen industry for Messrs. Bragg and Sons, Bradford Road, Dewsbury. They had three children; Laura, born in 1907, Lewis, born in 1911 and Sidney born in 1914. Elizabeth later moved to 14, Carlisle Street, Batley Carr, Dewsbury.

He attested in August 1914 serving as Private 17111 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 11th September 1915. He was wounded on 11th November 1916 whilst fighting near Beaumont Hamel and was sent to Leicester Military Hospital. He was given 10 days home leave before returning to the front in January 1917. He was killed in action in France, South East of Rouvroy on 12th March 1917 and was buried in Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On 2nd March 1917 the Battalion moved from Frasnay to Warvillers. On 5th March at 11.30 pm they left for the sector to take over from the Highland Light Infantry. On the 7th March they were still in the sector; the line was roughly east of Rouvroy. On 8th March they were relieved and spent two days in reserve at Warvillers before returning to the trenches at 11.30 pm on 11th March. On 12th March, nine men from "D" Company of which he was one, were killed in the afternoon by shells which landed on their dugout.

Rosieres is a village about 32 kilometres east of Amiens and 7.5 kilometres south of the main road from Amiens to St Quentin. The Communal Cemetery Extension was made by the units which retook Rosieres on 9th August 1918. It consisted until the Armistice of 97 graves. It was enlarged subsequently by the concentration of graves from the battlefields surrounding Rosieres and certain smaller cemeteries. There are now over 400, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over one-third 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 Trinity Church, Batley Carr and in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919.

In Memory of
Private
J H Holmes

17111, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 12 March 1917 Age 33

Son of John and Alice Holmes; husband of Elizabeth Holmes, of 14, Carlisle St., Batley Carr, Dewsbury,
Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

