



John Briody

1886 - 1917

John was born in Dewsbury on 27th October 1886. His father was Thomas Briody, a Mason's Labourer born in Longford, Ireland in 1849 and died in 1899. His mother was Mary (nee Kelly) born in Sheffield in 1856 and died in 1902. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown on 9th January 1886.

Their other children were; Catherine, born in 1888, Mary, born in 1891, Ellen, born in 1893 and Thomas, born in 1895.

On the 1891 Census they lived at 11, New Street, Westtown; sadly in 1901 the four youngest children are inmates of the Dewsbury Workhouse.

John was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church; he was a member of the Irish National Club and a playing member of the Dewsbury Celtic NRU Football Club. He worked as a General Labourer for Messrs E. Fox & Sons, Shoddy and Mungo Manufacturers Calder Bank Mills, Dewsbury. He was married on 26th December 1910 to a widow, Mary Ann Spencer nee Tighe (born in 1881 and died in 1913 whilst giving birth to their son Thomas who also died). John was remarried on 28th November 1914 to another widow, Mary Ellen Judge nee Cox (born in 1888 and died in 1969). They had two children; Mary, born in 1915 and Thomas Thompson, born in 1917. His Step-Daughter from his first marriage Catherine Spencer, born in 1903 also lived with them at 5, Ingham Road, Westtown.

He enlisted in September 1916 serving as Gunner 165804 in the 125th Battery, Royal Field Artillery and was sent to the Western Front around June 1917. Having fought in the Battle of Passchendaele, he died of pneumonia on 4th November 1917 in the 63rd Casualty Clearing Station at Haringhe near Proven in Belgian Flanders. He was buried in Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The cemetery is located 18 kilometres from Ieper (Ypres) town centre. Bandaghem, like Dozinghem and Mendinghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War. The cemetery site was chosen in July 1917 for the 62nd and 63rd Casualty Clearing Stations and burials from these and other hospitals (notably the 36th Casualty Clearing Station in 1918) continued until October 1918. The cemetery contains 772 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Gunner
J Briody

165804, 125th Bty., Royal Field Artillery who died on 04 November 1917

Remembered with Honour
Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

