



## **John William Bamford**

### **1877 – 1916**

John was born on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1877, his birth was registered in Newark, Nottinghamshire but he was baptised on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1878 at St. James and St. Luke's Church, Whitfield near Glossop, Derbyshire. His father was shown as George Bamford, born around 1851 and his mother as Jane (née Crapper) born in Ecclesfield, Sheffield around 1848 and died in 1890. They were married on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1871 at St. Philip's Church, Shalesmore, Sheffield.

They appear to have had two other children whose births were registered in Eccleshall Bierlow, Sheffield; Annie Elizabeth, born in 1872 and Joseph, born in 1874. The family have not been found together on any Census Records, but in 1891 John and his brother Joseph are recorded as the adopted sons of Charles and Elsa Hibbard at 36, Burgoyne Road, Walkley, Sheffield.

John could hardly have been described as a model citizen as he had at least 14 criminal convictions of varying severity in Sheffield, Wakefield and Dewsbury from 1894 to 1908 using a number of aliases and received prison sentences for a number of these. He led a nefarious life from his early teens, right up to his last home leave in 1915.

He was married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1901 to Margaret O'Donnell (born in Dewsbury in 1878) his occupation is given as a coalminer. Although they did not appear to live together consistently, she was named as his dependant in his Soldiers Effects Record.

He enlisted in Huddersfield soon after the outbreak of war and was sent to the Western Front on 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1914 serving as Private 12653 in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was later transferred into the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) as Private 203144. His Medal Award Roll Record also states the numbers 22769 and 5539 when he was serving in 2 other battalions of the West Yorkshires. His Soldiers Effects Record also states the number 6514 which is the number quoted in his entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour. He was killed in action on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. 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 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

In Memory of

Private

**John Bamford**

203144, 1st/5th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 28 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

BAMFORD J.