



## **John Blakeway**

### **1896-1918**

John was born in Cambusnethan, a suburb of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, Scotland around 1896. His father was James Blakeway, an iron worker born in Mossend, Lanarkshire in 1864 and died in 1939. His mother was Maggie/Margaret Hamilton (nee Graham) born in Wishaw in 1872 and died in 1959. They were married in 1890.

Their other children who could be traced were; George, born in Motherwell, Scotland in 1891 and served in both World Wars and was accidently killed at home on war service in 1940, James, born in Wishaw in 1894 and served in World War 1 and Henry, born in Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham in 1908.

On the Scottish Census Records for 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family lived in Wishaw but later moved to 46, Ingham Road, West Town, Dewsbury.

Margaret was remarried in Dewsbury in 1943 to William Brentnall (born in 1888 and died in 1956)

John was a single man who worked as a Messenger Boy in 1911.

He enlisted in Wishaw just before the outbreak of World War 1 in the Highland Light Infantry with the Service Number 7372, later transferring into the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) serving as Private 204596. He was described as "*a capable sprinter*" and also won an Army marathon race during the early part of his service. He was wounded in July 1916 and after recovery in the UK, he was redeployed at home until returning to the Western Front around February 1918. He was killed in action in Belgian Flanders on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1918 when a shell landed in the trench where he and his comrades were on duty; he took a direct hit and was the only casualty. He was buried in Nine Elms British Cemetery near Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His family received letters from an Officer and his Platoon Serjeant, praising his courage, conscientious performance of his duty, and for his unflinching good nature; a chum named Tom described the circumstances of his death and said that he "*died painlessly*".

Nine Elms British Cemetery is located west of Poperinge and was begun and used by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian and 44<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations when they moved to Poperinge in September 1917. Later burials cover the dates between March 1918 and the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1918, the period of the German offensive in Flanders, the British counter attacks and the final advance of August-September. The cemetery contains 1,556 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 Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle.

In Memory of

Private

**J Blakeway**

204596, 5th Bn., Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) who died on 22 July 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Nine Elms British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

