



John Thomas Cogan MM

1886-1918

John was born in Dewsbury in 1886. His father was Andrew Cogan, born in Sligo, Ireland in around 1839 and died in 1889. His mother was Bridget (nee Frain), born in Swinford, County Mayo, Ireland around 1845 and died in 1923. They were married on 6th November 1865 at the old St. Paulinus Church in Dewsbury, the present Church not being founded until 1871.

Their other children were; Ellen, born in 1866, Michael, born in 1868 and died in 1886, Ann, born in 1872, Andrew, born in 1874 and died in 1889, Bridget, born in 1877 and died in 1898, Mary, born in 1880 and Katherine/Catherine, born in 1883 and died in 1896.

On the 1871 Census the family lived at 61, Staincliffe Road, Batley, in 1891 at 5, Smith Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 19, Carlisle Street, Batley Carr. They have not been found on the 1881 Census.

John was educated at St. Josephs RC School in Batley Carr and also attended the Church. He worked as a Coal Miner for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton at Shaw Cross Pit; he was married in 1912 to Catherine Stenchion (born in 1885 and died in 1964) they lived at 41, Ambler Street, Batley and had three children; Andrew, born in 1913 and died in 1914, Catherine, born in 1914 and John Thomas, born in 1918 and died in 1921.

He was a reservist and was mobilised at the outbreak of war joining the 12th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 17010 and was sent to the Western Front on 21st May 1915. In July 1916 he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field, rescuing wounded men whilst under bombardment during the Battle of Albert. The award was announced in the London Gazette on 1st September 1916; he was wounded in the hand in November and after a period of recovery at home he returned to the front where he was later gassed. He was killed in action whilst in a work party by the bursting of a shell in Belgian Flanders on 30th September 1918 and was buried in Underhill Farm Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal in addition to the Military Medal.

Underhill Farm Cemetery is located 12 Kms south of Ieper (Ypres) town centre, on a road leading from the Rijselseweg, which connects Ieper to Wijtschate, Mesen (Messines) and on to Armentieres. 'Underhill Farm' and 'Red Lodge' were the names given to two buildings on the north-western edge of Ploegsteert Wood. They were occupied by dressing stations and the cemetery which they used, is close to the farm. There are 190 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

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 Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

John Thomas Cogan

M M

17010, 12th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 30 September 1918 Age 33

Husband of Catherine Cogan, of 41, Ambler St., Batley.

Remembered with Honour

Underhill Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Réal Desmarets.