



## **John William Ellis**

### **1886-1918**

John was born in Thornhill on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1886. His father was William Henry Ellis, a coal miner born in Thornhill in 1864 and died in 1934. His mother was Mary (nee Walton) born in Thornhill Lees in 1862 and died in 1924. They were married at Holy Innocents Parish Church, Thornhill Lees on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1884.

Their other children were; George Walton, born in 1884, Charles Henry, born in 1890, Lucy, born in 1893, Wright, born in 1896, Martha, born in 1899 and Winnie, born in 1902.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 30, Cromwell Road, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at Plantation View, Thornhill Lees.

John was a miner at West End Colliery, Batley. He was married to Ethel Newton (born in Ossett in 1889 and died in 1937) on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915 at Holy Innocents Parish Church; they had two sons, Joseph Henry born in 1917 and John William, born in 1918. They lived at 16, Tolson's Yard, Streetside, Ossett.

After being an Army Reservist since 24<sup>th</sup> June 1916 he was mobilised on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1917 serving as Able Seaman R/6521 in Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division; after training he was sent to the Western Front on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1917. He died of wounds on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1918 in No 3 General Hospital at Le Treport on the French coast after being hit by a Gas Shell three days earlier. He is buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Le Treport is a small seaport 25 kilometres north-east of Dieppe. The Cemetery is 1.5 kilometres south of the town. During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian, 47<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the 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 War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of  
Able Seaman

## John William Ellis

R/6251, Drake Bn. R.N. Div., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 16 March 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

