



John Keegan

1890-1918

John was born in Dewsbury on 28th February 1890. His father was Michael Keegan, a Labourer and Gardener born in County Roscommon, Ireland around 1857 and died in 1933. His mother was Ann (nee Drake) born in Bristfield in 1857 and died in 1923. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown, Dewsbury on 15th January 1877.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in 1877, Henry, born in 1878 and died in 1892, Hannah Margaret, born in 1880 and died in 1883, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1882, James, born in 1884, Emily, born in 1886 and died in 1908, Joseph, born in 1888, William, born in 1892 and died in 1893, Henry, born in 1894 and died in 1895, Patrick, born in 1897 and Edward, born in 1899.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 39, Hanover Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 8, Hanover Street, in 1911 at 5, Hanover Square and later at 71, Hanover Street.

John was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and also attended the Church; he worked as a Willyer for Mr. M. Day, Earlsheaton.

He enlisted in February 1916 into the 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment serving as Private 28774; he served for 15 months on the Western Front followed by 10 months in the Italian Campaign and had only returned to France 3 weeks previously when he was shot in the head whilst on active service. He died of wounds in No 1 General Hospital, Etretat on 10th October 1918 and was buried in Etretat Churchyard Extension, Seine-Maritime, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Etretat is a small seaside town about 26 kilometres north of Le Havre. The Churchyard is on the road from Fecamp, and the Extension is on the south-east side of it, between the church and the railway. In December 1914, No.1 General Hospital was established in Etretat and it remained there until December 1918. In July 1917, it was taken over by No.2 (Presbyterian USA) Base Hospital Unit, but it continued to operate as a British hospital. The first seven burials took place among the French civil graves but in February 1915, two plots were set aside for Commonwealth burials in the churchyard. These were filled by December 1916 and from then until December 1918, the extension was used. Etretat Churchyard Extension contains 282 First World War burials.

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

Private

J Keegan

28774, 9th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 10 October 1918

Remembered with Honour
Etretat Churchyard Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

