



John Norbury MM

1886-1918

John was born in Dewsbury on 6th March 1886. His father was Thomas Norbury who according to his age stated on his marriage record was born around 1849. His mother was Mary Ann (nee McCullum and of which there are many spelling variations of her surname) born around 1854 and died in 1898. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 7th February 1885. No definitive birth and death records can be found for Thomas and no birth record for Mary Ann.

Their other children were; Emily, allegedly born in Dewsbury around 1885; she appears on the 1891 and 1911 Census Records but no definitive birth record can be found and Thomas Patrick, born in Dewsbury in 1887 and died in 1888.

Mary Ann was previously married to James Welsh (born around 1848) at Huddersfield on 22nd October 1877; they had three children; James Welsh, allegedly born in Bradford around 1873, Margaret Welsh, allegedly born in Huddersfield around 1880, Mary Ann Welsh, born in Huddersfield in the December Quarter of 1881. James Welsh Snr. does not appear on any census records and no definitive death record can be found for him.

John attended Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and was a playing member of the Dewsbury Celtic Football Club; he was married at Dewsbury Register Office in the June Quarter of 1909 to Lily Owen (born in 1888 and died in 1945) they had a church wedding on 21st January 1910. On the 1911 census the family lived at 102, Thornton Street, Dewsbury, his employment was shown as a Warehouseman for a Rag Merchant. They had five children; Mary Ann, born in 1910 and died in 1910. Kathleen, born in 1911, Joseph, born in 1913 and died in 1915, Mary, born in 1918 and died in 1918 and Roy Cambrai, born in 1919 and died in 1920. They later lived at 53, Thornton Street.

He was already serving in the territorials at the outbreak of war and was sent to the Western Front on 4th December 1914 with the Service Number 15368 serving in the 2nd, 8th and finally 5th Battalions of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry rising to the rank of Serjeant. He was awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field and his obituaries make reference to the award but the citation was not officially announced in the London Gazette until 13th March 1919. He was killed in action by a shell burst near Orsinval, France on 3rd November 1918 and was buried in Frasnoy Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. In addition to the Military Medal, John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Frasnoy is a small village about 15 kilometres south-east of Valenciennes and 4 kilometres north-east of Le Quesnoy. Frasnoy was in German hands for much of the First World War. The village was eventually captured by the 62nd (West Riding) Division on 4th November 1918. Frasnoy Communal Cemetery contains 39 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, three of which are unidentified. All date from November 1918.

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

Serjeant

J Norbury

M M

15368, 5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 03 November 1918

Husband of Lily Norbury, of 58, Back, Thornton St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Frasnoy Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

