



John West 1896-1918

John was born in Staincliffe, Dewsbury in 1896. His father was Thomas West, a Publican born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1900. His mother was Ada Rhodes France (nee Smith) born in Ravensthorpe in 1870 and died in 1939. They were married on at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury. John was their only child.

On the 1901 Census Ada and her son were living at 37, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe.

Ada was remarried to John Eddison (born in Leeds in 1855 and died in 1942) on 22nd September 1901 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. They had two children; Annie Eddison, born in 1902 and James Eddison, born in 1903. John Eddison was a Publican and Innkeeper of the Royal Hotel in Thornhill Lees and later the White Hart Inn. After retiring they lived at Slaithwaite Road, Thornhill Lees.

John was a single man who was educated at Holy Innocents Church Day School and was a chorister at the Church. In 1911 he was working as a Pawnbroker's Assistant and later at Messrs Handley and Drury's Warehouse on Thornhill Road.

He enlisted in the Royal Scots Fusiliers on January 4th 1915 with the Service Number 16301 and served on the Western Front for over three years where he was wounded three times and once buried in a dugout; he came home on leave for the last time a week before Easter 1918 suffering from injuries to the shin and thigh, inflicted in the previous July. Soon after he was transferred into the 8th Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) serving as Private 138383 and was sent to the front for a fourth time. He was taken prisoner on May 27th 1918 and his family heard nothing more about him until August 16th when a postcard in his own handwriting arrived from Germany. He died of pleurisy and catarrh of the gut in Lamsdorf Prisoner of War Camp in what was then Upper Silesia (now Łambinowice in Poland) on 19th October 1918 and was one of 83 men buried in the camp cemetery. He was reburied in 1925 in Berlin South-Western Cemetery, Stahnsdorf, Brandenburg, Germany. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In 1922-23 it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries. Berlin South-Western was one of those chosen and in 1924-25, graves were brought into the cemetery from 146 burial grounds in eastern Germany. There are now 1,176 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Berlin South-Western Cemetery. The total includes special memorials to a number of casualties buried in other cemeteries in Germany whose graves could not be found. The village of Stahnsdorf lies approx 22kms south west of Berlin and approx 14kms to the east of Potsdam.

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

Private

John West

138383, 8th Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 19 October 1918 Age 22

Son of Mrs. Ada Rhodes Eddison, of 139, Slaithwaite Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Berlin South-Western Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

