



Tolson Hemingway

1883 – 1916

Tolson was born in Dewsbury on 5th November 1883. His father was James Hemingway, a Grocer born in 1832 and died in 1885. His mother was Elizabeth (née Tolson) born in Dewsbury in 1842 and died in 1899. They were married in 1869. James was previously married on 15th April 1854 to Mary Dove (born in 1834 and died in 1861).

Their other children were; Tom (I), born in 1869 and died in 1870, Mary, born in 1871, Tom (II), born in 1873 and died in 1874 and Sarah Ann, born in 1875 and died in 1878.

In 1891 the family lived at 7, New Street, Westtown, in 1901 Tolson and his sister Mary were living at the same address.

Tolson was educated at Boothroyd Council School. From an early age he was a good singer, and was a chorister at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen. This love of singing continued into adulthood where, as a bass vocalist he was a member of the St. James' Glee Society.

He worked as a Shunter at Ingham's Thornhill Colliery and was married to Sarah Ward (born in 1885 and died in 1957) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 24th November 1906. They had two children; Phyllis, born in 1908 and Eric, born in 1914. The family lived at 15, Eddison Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury. Sarah was remarried in 1930 to Lister Goodall (born in 1877 and died in 1954).

He enlisted on 12th August 1915 serving as Private 4785 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in the spring of 1916. He was killed in action on 7th July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, although newspaper reports indicate 9th July. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Tolson was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Tolson is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Tolson Hemingway

4785, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 07 July 1916 Age 32

Husband of Sarah Hemingway, of 15, Eddison St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

