



Rolla Hirst Jackson

1887 - 1916

Rolla was born in Dewsbury in 1887. His father was Ned Jackson, a joiner born in Huddersfield in 1854 and died in 1923. His mother was Sarah Ellen (née Hirst) born in Dewsbury in 1852 and died in 1946. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury in 1879.

Their other children were; Jane Eliza, born in 1880, William Ewart, born in 1882, Dick, born in 1885 and died of wounds 18th September 1916, Matilda, born in 1890 and Hannah Elizabeth, born in 1893.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Back Victoria Road, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 8, Trinity Buildings, in 1901 and 1911 at 12, South View, Hill Head, Dewsbury.

Rolla was a painter and decorator employed by Dewsbury Pioneers' Industrial Society. He was married in 1910 to Mary Emma Manning (born in 1888 and died in 1940). They lived at 51, Commercial Road, Dewsbury and had two children; Peter, born in 1910 and died in 1910 and Elizabeth, born in 1913. After his marriage he attended St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Batley Carr.

He enlisted into the 8th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) with the Service Number 4220 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916 at Thiepval on a Salient known as the "Pope's Nose". His body was recovered in May 1919 and he was buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval, Somme, France. Rolla was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Thiepval is a village about 8 kilometres north of the town of Albert. On the 1st July 1916 the 36th (Ulster) Division were detailed to attack the German positions north of Thiepval, known as the Hansa Line and the Schwaben Redoubt. It would take until 26th September 1916 before the village finally fell. It then remained under Allied occupation until 25th March 1918, when it was lost during the great German offensive, but was retaken on the following 24th August. Mill Road Cemetery (called at one time Mill Road Cemetery No.2) was made during the spring of 1917. At the Armistice, it contained 260 burials, but was then greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Beaumont-Hamel and Thiepval and from smaller cemeteries. There are now 1,304 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 815 of the burials are unidentified. The headstones in Plot 1 were laid flat in the early 1950s because the site was subject to subsidence between the wars as a result of it being sited above the infamous Schwaben Redoubt.

Rolla 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 Memorial Plaque from the now demolished Springfield Congregational Church, now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

Rolla Hirst Jackson

4220, 8th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 03 September 1916 Age 29

Son of Ned and Sarah Ellen Jackson, of Dewsbury; husband of Mary Emma Jackson, of 51, Commercial Rd., Springfield, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

