



Reuben Brearey

1893-1918

Reuben was born in Dewsbury on 18th November 1893 and baptised 17th December 1893 at St. Philip's Church, Dewsbury. His father was Horace Brearey, a Cloth Finisher and later a Manufacturer born in Dewsbury in 1855 and died in 1934. His mother was Bridget Madelias (nee Reagan/Regan) born in Louth, Lincolnshire in 1858 and died in 1927. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 20th September 1879.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1879, Arthur (I), born in 1881 and died in 1882, Edith, born in 1882, Alfred, born in 1885 and died in 1887, Arthur (II), born in 1887, Ralph, born in 1889, Florence, born in 1890, Sylvia Ellen, born in 1892 and died in 1893, Sylvia Amy, born in 1895 and died in 1898 and Joe, born in 1900. All four brothers served in World War 1.

In 1881 the family lived at Upper Bank Street, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 15, Battye Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 21, Lawson Street, Dewsbury.

Bridget was previously married on 3rd January 1874 to James/Jim Rawden (born in 1852) but he died later that same year; they had a son, John, born in 1874 and died in 1874.

Reuben was married to Eleanor Taylor (born in 1894 and died in 1963) on 21st January 1918 at All Saints Parish Church, Dewsbury; they lived at 40, Woodbine Street, Dewsbury and had no children. Eleanor was remarried in 1919 to William Brown (born in 1893 and died in 1933) they had a son, George, born in 1920. She remarried again in 1941 to Thomas Brace (born in 1902 and died in 1985).

He joined the Royal Navy in 1910 and reached the rank of Leading Seaman J/9366, serving on a number of vessels and had an early taste of war when involved in the Falklands Battle on 6th December 1914 serving aboard H.M.S. "*Cornwall*"; he was slightly wounded in this exchange and was returned home on H.M.S. "*Edinburgh Castle*", being assigned to guarding German Prisoners of War. In March 1915 he was assigned to a Minesweeper, H.M.S. "*Seagull*" and it was whilst serving on this vessel he was accidentally drowned when the ship was in a collision with a merchant ship, the SS "*Corrib*" on the Firth of Clyde in Scotland on 30th September 1918. The ship was sunk and his body was never recovered and so he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon. Reuben was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates more than 7,200 sailors of the First World War. More than a quarter of the men commemorated at Plymouth were lost at The Battle of Jutland which began on 31st May 1916.

Reuben is also 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 from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of
Leading Seaman
Reuben Brearey

J/9386, H.M.S. "Seagull.", Royal Navy who died on 30 September 1918 Age 24

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Brearey, of 21, Battye St., Dewsbury; husband of Eleanor Brearey, of 40, Woodbine St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Plymouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

