



## **John Simmonds (Simmons)**

### **1892? - 1917**

John was born around 1892 in Middlesex; it has not been possible to positively identify his family. When he enlisted in Dewsbury he gave his birthplace as Thornhill, Yorks, yet on the 1911 Census he is listed as a boarder, working as a coal miner and living with the family of Richard Arthur Haley at Hirst Buildings, Hightown, Liversedge. His age is given as 19 and his birthplace is shown as Middlesex, London.

His sole legatee on his Soldiers Effects record is listed as Mrs Emily Haley, the wife of Richard Arthur Haley. On the 1911 Census, Richard Haley and one of his sons also worked as coal miners. Later records for the Haley family indicate that they moved to Thornhill, the men probably working at Ingham's Colliery. It is likely that John Simmonds moved with them. Their address was Edge Top, Thornhill, Dewsbury.

John was a single man and as previously stated he worked as a coal miner/trammer.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 23536 in the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment and was killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Cambrai Memorial commemorates 7,120 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known. The Memorial stands on a terrace in Louverval Military Cemetery, situated south of the small village of Louverval which is 13 Kms north-east of Bapaume and 16 Kms south-west of Cambrai.

John 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 in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill. His name is spelt as *Simmons* on all three.

In Memory of

Private

**John Simmonds**

23536, 13th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 23 November 1917

Remembered with Honour

**Cambrai Memorial, Louverval**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

SIMMONDS J.