



Patrick Shannon

1875 – 1916

Patrick was born in Dewsbury on 15th November 1875. His father was Thomas Shannon, born in County Roscommon, Ireland around 1851 and died in 1919. His mother was Honoria (née Ganley) born in County Roscommon around 1851 and died in 1908. They were married on at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 26th September 1874.

Their other children were; Mary, born in 1878 and died in 1879, John, born in 1880 and Annie, born in 1887.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census records they lived at Bennett's Yard, High Street, Westtown.

Patrick worked as a rag warehouseman at Eastwood and Nephew, Bradford Road, Dewsbury and was connected to the Dewsbury Trades and Friendly Club. He was married to Annie McLelland (born in 1875 and died in 1936) on 26th December 1895 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church. They lived at 47, Granville Street, Flatts, Dewsbury, their children were; Thomas Arthur, born in 1893 and died in 1894, Annie Elizabeth, born in 1896 and John, born in 1901.

He enlisted as Private 22467 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was transferred into the 9th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on the 4th November 1915 serving as Private 27703. On the 24th of November 1915 the Battalion landed on the Greek island of Lemnos, which was the Allied HQ for the Gallipoli Campaign; the Lancashire Fusiliers had suffered heavy losses on Gallipoli. He was then posted to Egypt on the 3rd December 1915. He was sent to France in August 1916 and was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme on 26th September 1916 during the attempt to recapture Mouquet Farm, which was part of the Battle of Pozières. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Patrick was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The attack on Mouquet Farm began on 23rd July 1916 with attacks by the Reserve Army and it was captured by the 3rd Division of the Canadian Corps on 16th September. The farm was lost to a German counter-attack, before being recaptured on 26th September, during an attack by the 11th (Northern) Division as part of the Battle of Thiepval Ridge from 26th to 28th September. The 9th Lancashire Fusiliers bombed the exits of the underground positions and also managed to reach the second objective, at the west end of *Zollern* Trench, where German machine-gun nests had held up previous attacks. The 6th East Yorkshire (Pioneers) overwhelmed the last defenders with smoke grenades and took 56 prisoners. Mouquet Farm was the site of nine separate attacks by three Australian divisions between 8th August and 3rd September 1916. The attacks cost the 1st, 2nd and 4th Australian Divisions over 11,000 casualties, and not one succeeded in capturing and holding it.

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 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Patrick 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

Patrick Shannon

27703, 9th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 26 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

