



## **John Thomas Machin**

### **1896 - 1916**

John was born on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1896 at Ryhope, County Durham. His father was George Machin, a Coal Miner born in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent in 1859, and died in 1908. His mother was Annie Elizabeth (née Walker) born in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent in 1861 and died in 1933. They were married at the Wesleyan Chapel, Wolstanton on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1882. The family moved to various parts of the country to work in the coal-mining industry.

Their other children were; Eliza Ann, born in Chesterton near Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1883 and died in 1909, Daniel, born in Chesterton in 1885 and died in 1885, Joseph, born in Chesterton in 1886 and was killed in action 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1916, George, born in Audley, Staffordshire in 1889, James Henry, born in New Seaham, County Durham in 1891, Charles, born in New Seaham in 1894 and was killed in action 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914, Septimus, born in Ryhope in 1899 and Charlotte, born in Chesterton in 1901. All the brothers served in World War 1 and a step-brother, Fred Bailey served in the Canadian Infantry.

In 1908 Annie was remarried to Joseph Bailey (born in 1863 and died in 1912); in 1913 she moved to live at 3, Cardigan Road, Thornhill Lees and later at Overton Green, Middlestown near Wakefield. In early 1916 the Dewsbury Reporter featured an article on Mrs Machin's six soldier sons, all who were described as being over six feet tall.

John worked as a driver below ground at Ingham's Colliery in Thornhill.

He enlisted in Doncaster into the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards with the Service Number 13991 rising to the rank of Lance Serjeant and was sent to the Western Front on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He died in the 34<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1916 from gunshot wounds sustained during the Battle of the Somme. He is buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Meaulte is a village just south of Albert. In September 1916, the 34<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> London Casualty Clearing Stations were established at this point, known to the troops as Grove Town, to deal with casualties from the Somme battlefields. They were moved in April 1917 and, except for a few burials in August and September 1918, the cemetery was closed. Grove Town Cemetery contains 1,395 First World War burials.

John 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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church.

In Memory of  
Lance Serjeant

## John Thomas Machin

13991, 4th Bn., Coldstream Guards who died on 27 September 1916 Age 20

Son of George and Annie Machin, of 5, Cardigan Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

