



George Alfred Johnson MM

1894 – 1916

George was born in Dewsbury on 12th August 1894. His father was Robert Brearley Johnson a card cleaner born in Horbury in 1867 and died in 1953. His mother was Mary Ellen (nee Wardman) born in Derby in 1872 and died in 1920. They were married on 19th November 1892 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

Their other children were; Thomas William, born in 1897, Albert Edward, born in 1900 and served in the Royal Marines in World War 1, Edith Elizabeth, born in 1904 and Nelly, born in 1912.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 59, Whitley Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 14, School Lane, Dewsbury Moor and later at 24, Wood Hill, Batley Carr, Dewsbury.

George was a single man and worked as a Counterman at the Maypole Dairy Company Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Leeds on 17th November 1914 into the 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps with the Service Number R/7281 and was sent to the Western Front on 20th October 1915. He was reported to be an excellent soldier and rose to the rank of Serjeant on 3rd August 1916. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field which was gazetted on 9th December 1916. He received a wound to the head from bomb fragments on 26th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and died on 29th September 1916 at the 1st/1st South Midland Casualty Clearing Station in Dernancourt. He was buried in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. In addition to the Military Medal, George was also awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Dernancourt is a village 3 kilometres south of Albert. Field ambulances used the Communal Cemetery for Commonwealth burials from September 1915 to August 1916, and again during the German advance of March 1918. The XV Corps Main Dressing Station was formed at Dernancourt in July 1916, when the adjoining Extension was opened. The 45th and 56th (1st/1st South Midland) Casualty Clearing Stations came in September 1916 and remained until March 1917. Dernancourt was evacuated ahead of the German advance in March 1918, and the extension remained in their hands until the village was recaptured on 9th August 1918. At the Armistice, the Extension contained more than 1,700 burials; it was then enlarged when graves were brought in from isolated positions in the immediate neighbourhood and certain small cemeteries. The Extension now contains 2,162 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 177 of the burials are unidentified.

George is commemorated as *George Johnson* 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. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Serjeant

G A Johnson

M M

R/7281, 2nd Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 29 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

