



John Beaumont Brown

1896 - 1916

John was born in Earlsheaton on 16th November 1896. His father was Fred Kitchen Brown, a Rag Merchant Employer born in Batley in 1865 and died in 1955. His mother was Emma (née Henshall) born in Hadfield, Derbyshire in 1864 and died in 1942. They were married in Dewsbury in 1896.

Their other children were; Gladys May, born in 1899 and Sarah Elizabeth Brown, born in 1905.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Walker Street, Earlsheaton and in 1911 at 94, Taylor's Yard, Town Green, Earlsheaton.

John was a single man who was educated at Earlsheaton Council School and worked in his father's Rag Merchant business

He served in the Royal Navy as Ordinary Seaman J/47461 attesting on 30th November 1915 in Portsmouth and served on H.M.S. 'Victory I' and H.M.S. 'Excellent' prior to joining the crew of H.M.S "Genista" a mine-sweeping steam powered sloop built by Napier and Miller launched 26th February 1916. He was killed in action on 23rd October 1916 when the "Genista" was torpedoed by the German submarine "U-57" in the Atlantic Ocean off the West Coast of Ireland. "Genista", under the command of Lieutenant Commander John White, sank very rapidly taking with her all officers plus 73 ratings, only 12 ratings survived. His body was not recovered for burial and so he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Standing on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade in Portsmouth, Hampshire, is the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. It commemorates 9,706 naval personnel of the First World War who were lost or buried at sea.

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 Earlsheaton War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of
Ordinary Seaman

John Beaumont Brown

J/47461, H.M.S. "Genista.", Royal Navy who died on 23 October 1916 Age 19

Son of Fred Kitchen Brown and Emma Brown, of 94, Taylor's Yard, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

