



John Hallas

1892 - 1916

John was born in Dewsbury on 3rd December 1892. His father was Thomas Hallas, a coal miner born in Ossett in 1871 and died in 1910. His mother was Winifred Ann (née Greenwood) born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1940. They were married on 8th October 1889 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

They had a daughter, Mary Ellen, born in 1896 and died in 1909.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Swallow Road, Westtown, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Princes Street, Westtown and in 1911 at 34 High Street, Westtown and later at 6, Wood Street, Batley.

Winifred was remarried in 1921 to John William Smith (born in 1866 and died in 1939).

John was married on 10th January 1914 to Margaret Alice Mooney (born in Dewsbury in 1894 and died in 1970) at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen. They had one daughter Winifred Ann, born in 1914; they lived at 11, Upper Road, Batley Carr. Margaret was remarried in 1920 to Frederick Thompson (born in 1872 and died in 1931), they had five children. She remarried again in 1934 to Norman Crowther (born in 1903 and died in 1967), they had two children.

He must have been either a Reservist or a Territorial as he was sent to the Western Front on 8th August 1914 serving as Private 3/947 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in action on 18th November 1916 during the attack on Beaumont Hamel, which was one of the last offensives of the Battle of the Somme. He was buried in Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel, Somme, France, near to where he fell. John was awarded the 1914 Star with Mons Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Beaumont-Hamel is a village in the Department of the Somme. It was captured in November 1916, in the Battle of the Ancre, and the graves in this cemetery are largely those of men who died at that time. The burials were carried out by the V Corps in the spring of 1917, after the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line. Waggon Road Cemetery (originally V Corps Cemetery No.10) contains 195 First World War burials (36 unidentified), 46 of them belonging to the 11th Battalion of the Border Regiment, which attacked in the Ancre in both July and November 1916.

John is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and on the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of
Private
J Hallas

3/947, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 November 1916

Remembered with Honour
Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

