



## John McDonald

### 1890 - 1916

John was born in Dewsbury on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1890. His father was Terence McDonald, a General Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1864 and died in 1926. His mother was Ellen (nee Quinn) born in St. Helens, Lancashire in 1866 and died in 1894. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1885; they also had a daughter, Hannah/Annie born in 1888 (birth name registered as *McDonagh*).

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 12, Parker Road, Westtown, in 1901 Terence lived alone at 5, Back New Street, Westtown.

Terence was remarried at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1896 to Hannah McManus (born in Pontefract in 1868 and died in 1907).

In 1901 John and his sister were living with their maternal grandfather Mr. Bernard Quinn at Manor Road, Westtown; in 1911 they all lived at 6, Ingham Road, Westtown.

John was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church; he worked as a glass bottle hand at Kilner Brothers Glass Bottle Works, Thornhill Lees.

He enlisted on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1914 into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 3/615 and was sent to the Western Front on 1<sup>st</sup> November of that same year. He was wounded by a bullet in the leg in the late summer of 1915 and spent six months recovering at home, returning to the front in February 1916. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. John was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Before his death, John had sent the following letter home; *"I would like the 'Reporter' sent, so that I can see how the boys are going on at home. I should also like a bit of chewing tobacco. Having been in the trenches, I have not been able to write [to] you until now. I thank the good people who sent me two pairs of mittens. I should have given one pair to Joe Breheney, but he has gone to the base. He is all right, save as regards his feet. I gave a pair of mittens to a man named Carr, of Junction Road. For sixteen days and nights we have been doing heavy duty, but we are now enjoying a short rest."*

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of  
Private  
**John McDonald**

3/615, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour  
**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

MCDONALD J.