



## **John Henry Marriott**

### **1890 – 1916**

John was born in Dewsbury in 1890. His father was Thomas Edward Marriott, a Woollen Feeder born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1914. His mother was Sarah (née Crann) born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1907. They were married at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury in 1889.

Their other children were; Thomas Arthur, born in 1892, Margaret, born in 1895 and died in 1895, Kate, born in 1896 and James Willie, born in 1900.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 4, Back Belgrave Street, Dewsbury. The 1911 census records John was boarding with the Overend family at Bagshaw Street, Dewsbury.

John was married on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1914 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees to Hannah Martha Moore (born in 1894 and died in 1970); they did not have any children. He worked as a woollen spinner for Messrs Wormalds and Walker, Dewsbury. Hannah was remarried on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918 at Holy Innocents Church to Archibald Redfearn sometimes Redfern (born in 1886 and died in 1969). They had three children, Vera, born in 1918, Mary, born in 1920 and Joe, born in 1922.

He enlisted in May 1915 serving as Private 4733 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in early 1916. Described by his comrades as "*a joking fellow, and a good man at his duties*", he was killed in action after being hit by shrapnel in the early morning of 13<sup>th</sup> August 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He was initially buried in Paisley Avenue Cemetery which was on the south side of Thiepval Wood. In 1921 his remains were exhumed and he was reburied in Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, Somme, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Authuille is a village 5 kilometres north of the town of Albert on the road to Grandcourt. The Cemetery is 1 kilometre east of the village. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, the First Day of the Battle of the Somme, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, which included the 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets and the 11<sup>th</sup> (Lonsdale) Battalion of the Border Regiment attacked the German line at this point and stormed the Leipzig Salient, but were compelled to retire later in the day. In the spring of 1917, after the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, V Corps cleared these battlefields and made a number of new cemeteries, including Lonsdale No.1 and No.2. Lonsdale Cemetery No.1 (the present Lonsdale Cemetery) contained originally 96 graves, the great majority of which were those of officers and men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets and the 11<sup>th</sup> Borders. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves, almost all of 1916, were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from other small burial grounds. Lonsdale Cemetery now contains 1,542 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 816 of the burials are unidentified

John is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *John Hy. Marriott* on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

**J H Marriott**

4733, 4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 August 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.