



## **John Edward Holland**

### **1885 – 1916**

John Edward was born in Golcar, Huddersfield in 1885. His father was George Holland, a wool dyer born in Longwood, Huddersfield in 1857 and died in 1896. His mother was Annie Eliza (née Steele) born in Huddersfield in 1861 and died in 1885. They were married in 1882. John was their only child.

On the 1891 Census he is living with his father George at the home of his widowed grandmother Martha Holland at Thorpe Green, Golcar and in 1891 he is a boarder at the home of Ralph Hodgson at 22, Filbert Street, Birkby, Huddersfield. His first name is recorded as *Teddy* on both documents.

John worked as a woollen teaser (cloth raiser) and prior to enlistment worked for Messrs Henry Hamer and Sons in Ravensthorpe. He was a drummer in the Dewsbury Salvation Army Band. He was married to Mary Jane Buckley (born in Huddersfield in 1882 and died in 1973) on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1906 at the General Register Office in Huddersfield. They had three children; Emily Jane, born in 1909 and died in 1911, Ann Eliza, born in 1912 and Arthur, born in 1915. On the 1911 Census they are living in Asylum Road, Westtown, Dewsbury and later at 5, Princess Street, Westtown. Mary was remarried on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1917 to Percy Hancock (born in 1894 and died in 1972) they had two children; Frederick, born in 1918 and Minnie, born in 1924. They lived at 28, New Street, Westtown.

He enlisted in April 1915 serving as Private 22409 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916, the first day of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and was buried in Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, Somme, France. John was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Lesboeufs is a village 16 kilometres north-east of Albert. It was attacked by the Guards Division on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and captured by them on the 25<sup>th</sup>. It was lost on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1918 during the great German offensive, after a stubborn resistance by part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps, and recaptured on 29<sup>th</sup> August by the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion South Wales Borderers. At the time of the Armistice, the cemetery consisted of only 40 graves, mainly those of officers and men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Guards who died on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916, but it was very greatly increased when graves were brought in from the battlefields and small cemeteries round Lesboeufs. There are now 3,137 casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,644 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 83 soldiers known or believed to be buried among them.

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

In Memory of

Private

**J E Holland**

22409, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 15 September 1916

Remembered with Honour  
Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.