



## **John Jennings** **1897 - 1917**

John was born in Shaw Cross, Dewsbury on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1897. His father was Walter Jennings, a coal miner born in Soothill in 1859 and died in 1909. His mother was Hannah (nee Wainwright) born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1917. They were married on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1879 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Mary Hannah, born in 1879, James Arthur, born in 1881, Frederick, born in 1884 and died in 1897, Sarah Ellen, born in 1886, Alice, born in 1889 and died in 1893, Clifford, born in 1891 and served in World War 1 and Robert, born in 1894 and died in 1896.

On the 1881 Census they lived at Owl Lane, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury, in 1901 their address is simply recorded as "Shaw Cross" and in 1911 at 23, Owl Lane. After the deaths of his parents John lived at the same property with his widowed brother James Arthur and his sons.

John was a single man who was educated at Hanging Heaton and Shaw Cross Day Schools and attended St. Paul's Church. He was a member of Hanging Heaton Working Men's Club and worked as a Coal Miner for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton Limited at Shaw Cross Pit. .

He enlisted in 1914 in Mirfield serving as Private 240877 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front around March 1917. He died of wounds in the 48<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Ytres in France on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1917 after being severely wounded the previous day during the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai. He was buried in Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Rocquigny and Equancourt are two villages in the Department of the Somme approximately 8 kilometres apart, some 13 kilometres north of Peronne and 12 kilometres south-east of Bapaume. Rocquigny-Equancourt British Cemetery lies about halfway between the two villages on the north side of the road just west of the crossing road from Etricourt-Manancourt to Ytres. Etricourt was occupied by Commonwealth troops at the beginning of April 1917 during the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line. It was lost on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918 when the Germans advanced, but regained at the beginning of September. The cemetery was begun in 1917 and used until March 1918, mainly by the 21<sup>st</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations posted at Ytres, and to a small extent by the Germans, who knew it as "Etricourt Old English Cemetery". Burials were resumed by Commonwealth troops in September 1918 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian and 18<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations buried in it in October and November 1918. The cemetery contains 1,838 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 20 of the burials are unidentified and nine Commonwealth graves (6 of which were made by the Germans) which cannot now be found are represented by special memorials.

John is 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 Park War Memorial and on the Hanging Heaton War Memorial in St. Paul's Churchyard and on the Oak Panel War Memorial located inside St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and on the Crawshaw and Warburton Limited Memorial board located in the inner porch of St. Paul's Church and in the book: 'The Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev W.E. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Associate of King's College University of London. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

In Memory of

Private

**J Jennings**

240877, 2nd/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 21 November 1917 Age 20

Son of Walter and Hannah Jennings, of 23, Owl Lane, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.