



John William Marsden

1889 - 1917

John was born in Dewsbury on 9th September 1889 and baptised at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 2nd October 1889. His father was Robert Edward Marsden, a Gas Engine man working on the railways born in Hunslet, Leeds in 1861 and died in 1937. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Porritt) born in Batley in 1861 and died in 1935. They were married in 1882.

Their other children were; Mary Margaret, born in 1883, William, born in 1885 and died in 1885, Alice Ann, born in 1887, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1891, Florrie, born in 1895 and died in 1896, Harry, born in 1899 and died in 1899 and Clara, born in 1901.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 7, Central Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 18, Riley's Yard, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 8, Water Lane, Dewsbury and later at 28, Brook Street, Dewsbury.

John was educated at the Victoria Jubilee Council School and Wheelwright Grammar School. He attended St. James's Mission Church in Vulcan Road, Flatts where he taught at the Sunday school. He was an active member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in Dewsbury and was also secretary of the insurance section of the Bonny Rose of England Lodge of Oddfellows, Church House, Dewsbury. In 1911 his occupation was recorded as an Uncertified Teacher for Dewsbury Education Committee and prior to enlistment he was an assistant teacher at Carlton Road Boys Junior School. He was married on 1st June 1914 to Amy Giggall (born in 1890 and died in 1957) at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. They lived at 19, Knowles Hill, Dewsbury and had two children, Robert, born in 1914 and John, born in 1916. Amy was remarried in 1919 to Tom Bottomley (born in 1869 and died in 1936). They had a son, Walter, born in 1919.

He was recalled from the Army Reserve on 15th June 1916 into the 9th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment serving as Private 40088. He was killed in action on 1st October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. John was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

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 Memorial to Dewsbury Parish Church School Old Boys and on the St. James Mission Church War Memorial now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the Wheelwright Grammar School Roll of Honour Memorial Plaque, now displayed in Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury after a fire severely damaged the Grammar School on 2nd April 2024.

In Memory of
Private

John William Marsden

40088, 9th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 01 October 1917 Age 26

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marsden, of 28, Brook St., Dewsbury; husband of Amy Marsden, of 19, Knowles Hill, Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

