

Private JOHN HEWGILL

1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 30th August 1917 aged 34



John Hewgill 1883-1917

John Hewgill was born in 1883 at Halnaby, not a village, but Halnaby Hall, a very rural setting halfway between Croft and Middleton Tyas, Yorkshire.

In 1891, his father, Thomas, was a Domestic Gardener and the parents, with son John, his brother and sister, were living at Halnaby Hall South Lodge.

In 1901, John is 17 years old and working as a Domestic Undergardener, with his father and still living with the family on the Halnaby Hall estate.

In 1911 John is a Gardener at Wynyards Gardens, Stockton on Tees.

On 27th August 1913, aged 30, he married Emily Jane Celia Rolfe spinster, at Aston Clinton, Tring, Herts. John's own Banns were read by Reverend Alfred Lyon Fellowes at Shotesham All Saints Church on August 3rd, 10th and 17th 1913. Emily was a Dressmaker.

A photograph of Shotesham Hall and letters addressed to the Hall, have been found with family papers. Perhaps both were working at Shotesham Hall at this time.

On 24th October 1916, John was called up for Active Service. He joined the 1st Battallion of The Grenadier Guards. On 3rd April 1917, he was posted to France. Sadly a few months afterwards, on the 30th August 1917, John was killed in action. The War Diary does not show any military operations for that day. John is buried in the, now, peaceful setting of Bleuet Farm Cemetery, 2 miles north-west of Ypres.

The Regimental Archivist could find no record of the 1st Battalion being in action covering the end of August. He did find reference to the 4th Bn in action and says that John could have been posted to that Battalion, without it being recorded on his records.

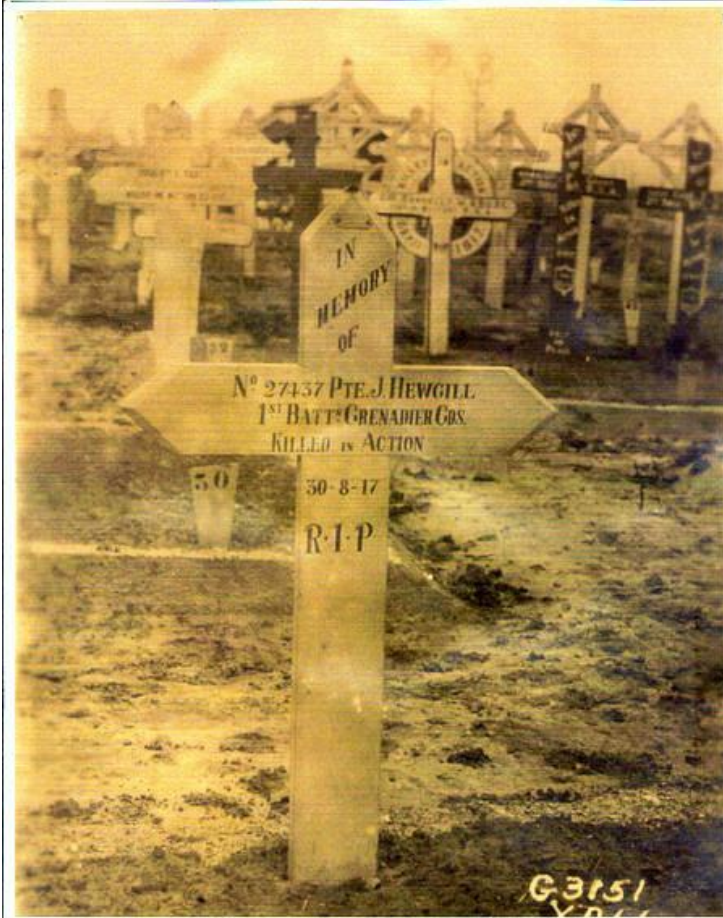
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission state that Bleuet Farm was used as a Dressing Station in 1917. The cemetery was begun in a corner of the farm and was in use from June to December 1917.

John's wife Emily gave birth to their only child, John, at Aston Clinton on 13th January 1918. This son, John, served with the Royal Army Medical Corps during WW2.

His grandson says that he wishes now, that he had taken a bit more notice of what his father was saying, when he used to talk about the past.

The Archivists of The Memorial Museum, Passchendaele 1917 at Zonnebeke were very helpful to us on our visit. They are trying to compile a Passchendaele Roll of Honour and wish to know the names of Soldiers, who died or are missing at the Battle of Passchendaele.

The Museum will add the name, if a photograph is available and if the soldier lost his life between July 12th and November 15th 1917



Bleuets Farm military Cemetery





The King commands me to assure you
of the true sympathy of His Majesty and
The Queen in your sorrow.

Lansbury

Secretary of State for War.