



Name: John William Marsden

Position: Able Seaman

DOB-DOD: 7 October 1896 – 13 November 1916

In 1915, Able Seaman John William Marsden, was one of 30 men of the Carlisle section of the Post Office Engineering Department that went off to war. Five of these colleagues did not return home.

Before enlisting in the Royal Navy Reserve, John lived locally at 25 Mayson St. Carlisle. On 4 January 1915 he joined the Howe Battalion of the Royal Navy Division. On 26 June 1915, less than six months after joining, John was drafted to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF), part of the British Army.

On 10 January 1916 John re-joined the Howe Battalion, serving as an infantryman in the final straggling battles of the Somme offensive.

On 13 November 1916 John was killed in action during the battle of the Somme, at age 20.

On this day alone 3,498 men and women lost their lives during world war one.

John has no known grave and is commemorated on panel 1A of the Thiepval Memorial to the missing, located Somme France.



Unable to find photo of John William Marsden, however this picture captures the Battle of the Somme which was one of the deadliest in human history - four months of bloody trench warfare that left more than a million wounded or killed.