



John Thomas Houseman was aged 21 years & 2 months when he was attested for entry to the Military service on the 25 February 1916.

A medical examination took place that recorded him as standing 5 feet 8 inches tall and having a chest measurement of 37 inches. He was found fit for service.

John was employed as a horseman at the time of his enlistment. His address is given as Moorhouse Farm, Badsworth.

He was single, and gave as his next of kin his father Thomas J Houseman of Brearton Grange, Brearton.

He signed the declaration on the attestation form, swore an oath and received the "King's shilling". John was then accepted into the army as a Private and was allocated number 2923. He was instructed to return home and to continue civilian life while he was formally on the Army Reserve, awaiting call up. He duly received notice and was mobilised on 26 February 1916.

John was posted to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry for training. He was transferred to the 2nd/9th Btn of the Royal Scots and became Private 353375..

On the 8 December 1916 John was then transferred to the 29th Middlesex Regiment.

On the 24 July 1917 John was then transferred to the 15th btn of the Highland Light Infantry and was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force as Private 353137.

In France

The 15th bn Highland Light Infantry were part of the 14th Brigade of the 32nd Division. Formed in Great Britain in May/June 1915 from the Locally Raised or Pals Battalions from various parts of the country. Arrived in France in November 1915. Served in France and Flanders until the Armistice.

The following battles and engagements were undertaken by the 32nd Division. John Thomas may have participated in some or all of them.

Operations on the Flanders Coast. 20 Jun-11 Nov 1917.

First Battle of Arras. 28 Mar 1918.

Battle of the Ancre. 5 Apr 1918.

Battle of Amiens. 8-11 Aug 1918.

Battle of Albert. 21-23 Aug 1918, including the capture of Chuignes.

Second Battle of Bapaume. 31 Aug-3 Sep 1918.

Battle of the St. Quentin Canal. 29 Sep-2 Oct 1918, including the passage at Bellenglise and the capture of the Bellicourt tunnel defences.

Battle of Beaufort. 3-5 Oct 1918.

Battle of the Sambre. 4 Nov 1918, including the passage of the Sambre-Oise canal and the capture of Le Quesnoy.

According to John's diary he was wounded on the 28 November 1917. The HLI museum tell me that on the 28 Nov the Bn was at Bellevue, support, Shell Holes. He also mentions St Quentin which you can see above. The diary notes of being wounded again on the 4 November 1918 fits in with the Battle of the Sambre which according to the HLI museum did include the 15th btn HLI. This was the last attack the Battalion was involved in, it took place at Ors preparatory to crossing the Oise Canal, where the Battalion captured Locquigno and Wallhein Farms