



Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Died on 19th October 1917 (France)



3rd Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment

Summary

Donald was born at Hopton Hall, Upper Hopton but following his fathers death in 1898 the family is shown living at 4 Trafalgar Road, Dewsbury on the 1901 and 1911 census forms.

Donald was a clerk at the Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank in Dewsbury but also had a keen interest in the army when he was 17. In 1902 he joined the 1st Bn. K.O.Y.L.I. When the war broke out he was in camp in Whitby with the Territorials. He was granted a commission on the 6th February 1915 and joined a Regular Battalion on the 26th July 1915 and went out to France with the York and Lancaster Regiment.

He served in the trenches at Ypres and was injured and seriously ill several times, spending time in La Touquet and in Etaples hospitals. Finaly he lost his life on the Somme in October 1917 whilst leading his men in an Attack.





Family details

Date of Birth	1 st October 1885
Date of Baptism	5 th December 1885
Church Baptised	St John the Evangelist, Upper Hopton
Father	John Harrison Watts b. 2 nd March 1841, d.15 th April 1898
Father's occupation	Solicitor Formerly Clerk to the Dewsbury West
Mother	Riding Magistrates. Emily Watts (nee Stewart)
Siblings	Francis John Stewart, Winnifred Agnes Ellen Stewart, Emily May Geraldine Stewart
Parents residence	Hopton Hall and later 4 Trafalgar Road, Dewsbury
Soldiers residence	Hopton Hall and later 4 Trafalgar Road, Dewsbury
Soldiers Occupation	Clerk at Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank, Dewsbury.
Married	
Burial / Memorial	Bancourt British Cemetery
Date of Death	12 th October 1916
Age at death	31



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Watts family Census 1891 – see continuation

Donald was born at Hopton Hall and lived there with his parents and siblings. The two 1891 census forms show that Donald was living at Hopton Hall with: Parents: John Harrison (50) & Emily Watts (38)

Children: Francis John Stewart (8), Donald William Stewart (5), Emily Mary Geraldine Stewart (9), Winifred Agnes Ellen Stewart (1).

Servants: Annie Shaplan (Governess), Elizabeth Harding (Cook), Elizabeth Edwards (Housemaid), Amy Laycock (Nursemaid).

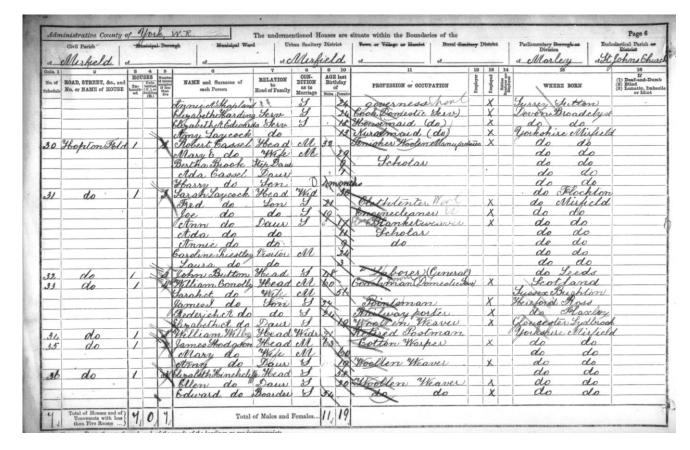
Photo showing Donald's first home, Hopton Hall.

John Harrison Watts and Emily Stewart were married in Dover, Kent on the 10th September 1874.





Watts family Census 1891 – second sheet



1901 Census

The 1901 census shows that the Watts family were living at 4 Trafalgar Road, Dewsbury. Emily was head of the household as her husband John Harrison Watts had died in 1898. Emily was age 53 and a woman with her "own means". Living with her was Emily Mary Geraldine age 19, Francis John age 18, Donald William age 15 and a domestic servant Sarah Stevenson age 20. Winifred Agnes Ellen is not shown as she was away at a private school in London. **Photo of 4 Trafalgar Road, Dewsbury.**





Watts family census 1911

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	Gast and	GE Birthday) SEX.	PART	ICULARS	as to M.	RRIAGE		of F	PROFESSIO ersons aged	N or OCCUPATION ten years and upwards.	P. Contraction		BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRM
every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant,	to applicate of	-	Infante		State,	for each red on thi	s Schedul	Woman le, the	Personal Occupation,		Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working en Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United King- dom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.		
who ' 1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or 2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 8rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. o one else must be included.	State whether "Head." or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Belatire, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	under state in m "under o " one	Ages	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widower," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	If lees tha	Childr pro (If s alivo	children still	n born one " in 7). Children	Profession, Trade, Manufacture, de If engaged in any Trade or Manufac particular kind of work done, and it made or Material worked or dealt be clearly indicated.	ture, the te Article in should	This question should gener- ally be answered by esting the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry meshel for Durastic Ser- vents in pirvise semigrows. If employed by a public hody (Guerencous, Municipal, etc.)	Write opposite the name of each person Trade or Influency. (1) " Employer" (that is employing persons other than demestic servants), of (2) " Worker " (that is working for an employer), or (3) " Uwn Account"	Write the woods "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country, write the name of the Country, NortzIn the case of persons how absorbers than in Ecological Country.	(2) "Naturalised British sub- joct," giving year of natu- ralisation.	Deaf," or and Dumb (2) "Total (3) "Lunal (4) "Imbe or "I minded, state thoin opposite th son's nam
e order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.) 2.		of Malen, 3.	Females.	8.	writs "under ons."	Born Alive. 7.	Living.	barn Died.	(See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples of Schedule.) 10.	on back	state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.) 11.	(that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer). 12.	13.	Wales, state whether " Rendent " or " Visitor " in this Country. 14.	"Russian," etc. 16.	the age at he or she afflicted. 10.
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The 1911 census form shows the family living in an eleven roomed house at 4, Trafalgar Road, Dewsbury.

The mother Emily Watts is 64

Francis John is 28 years old and is, like his father, a solicitor (he gained a Bachelor of Law degree in 1910).

Donald William is 25 years old and is a bank clerk.

Winifred Agnes Ellen is 21 with no identified occupation (from 30th June 1917 to 20th April 1919 Winifred is working at the East Leeds War Hospital dispensing medicines).

There is a single domestic servant Marion Maud Spencer who originates from Warwickshire.

The fourth child Emily Mary Geraldine is not shown as she died in 1905 age 24.





Military Details

Attestation / Enlistment	Joined the Volunteer Bn. KOYLI in 1902. Was in camp in Whitby with the Territorials when war broke out. Granted a commission 6 th Feb. 1915
Deployment	Joined the Regular Battalion 26 th July 1915 and went out to France.
Rank	2 nd Lieutenant
Medals	1914 – 1915 Star British War Medal Victory Medal
Regiment	3 rd Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment
Regimental Badge	
Killed in Action	12 th October 1916 on the Somme
Cemetery or Memorial	Bancourt British Cemetery, Pas du Calais, France
Age at death	31

Dewsbury Reporter 28th October 1916





Dewsbury Reporter 28th October 1916 - continued





Dewsbury Reporter 28th October 1916 - continued

Friday, and had the trying experience of lying for seventeen hours exposed to shell fire in a shell hole, which was a foot deep in mud, along with half-a-dozen others, one of whom was killed. The exposure brought on another attack of illress, and after being treated in hospital at Etaples he was allowed a week's leave. He had not long been back at the Front again, however, when he contracted broncho-pneumonia. After a short period of sick leave in England he returned to France on October 3rd, and was in the trenches on the Somme on the 6th. Official intimation of his death in action on October 12th was received from the Car Office on Sunday. From a letter which has since been received by his company commander it appears that the late officer was killed whilst gallantly leading his men in an attack. In addition to devoting practically the whole of his spare time to the Volunteer and Terri-torial movement, the late officer was intimately and actively connected with a number of kindred institutions. He took a prominent part in forming the Dewsbury Battalion of the National Reserve, and, throwing himself into the work with his accustomed enthusiasm, he was chiefly responsible for making it one of the strongest battalions in Yorkshire. He was a prominent member, and at one time secretary, of the Dewsbury and District Rifle Club, and also acted as secretary of the recreation club con-nected with the Drill Hall. In recognition of hected with the Drift Hall. In recognition of his untiring services in connection with the club the members presented him with a handsome smoking cabinet in 1910. An "old boy" of Wheelwright Grammar School-which he at-tended from 1894 to 1932-he was prior to the war engaged as a clerk at the Dewsbury branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank. He took part in the annual shooting competitions or-ganised by the bank, and open to all the officials, and in 1908 he carried off premier honours. He was also a member of the Battalion Shooting Club connected with the 4th K.O.Y.L.I., and a

frequent prize winner. Lieut. Watts probably inherited his military instinct from his mother's family. His grandfather on the maternal side, Col. Donald Stewart, was a paymaster in the Artillery, and served as aide-de-camp and deputy assistant adjutantgeneral during the Crimean war; and an uncle, Capt. Donald Stewart, was one of the first adjutants in Dewsbury in the old Volunteer days. One who knew the late officer intimately



Dewsbury Reporter 28th October 1916 - continued

jutants in Dewsbury in the old volumeer days. One who knew the late officer intimately writes as follows:-"Lieut. Watts stood over six feet, and he was a soldier and a gentleman every inch. His buoyant spirits and pleasing disposition made him a great favourite. He was extremely popular with officers and men alike, and the men of his own company practically worshipped him. He took great pride in his soldierly duties and was very keen in all that pertained to military affairs. The soldiering instinct was strong in him, and those who knew him best are well aware that he has met the death which he would have chosen could he have done so. His happy, boyish face and pleasant ways will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends, who had for him the most genuine and sincere affection."

The following is an extract from the last letter written by the late officer to his mother :--'I am writing this in a front-line trench dug in a hurry by the people who attacked the Bosches the other night. It was an awful morn-ing yesterday, when we marched a few miles from the camp where we were, all through country recently captured from the Germans, to the place where we bivoucked for the remainder of the day. Early in the evening we pushed in to these trenches. We were busy all night conrecting the trenches up, etc., and the Bosch was very busy with his machine guns and artillery, and so were we. I don't know when you will get this, but I will send it at the first opportunity. Things are looking much better out here now, but we have by no means finished." The letter is dated October 9th, but there is a postscript dated October 10th, as follows: "Sending this to-night. Quite well and busy."



Dewsbury Reporter 28th October 1916 - continued

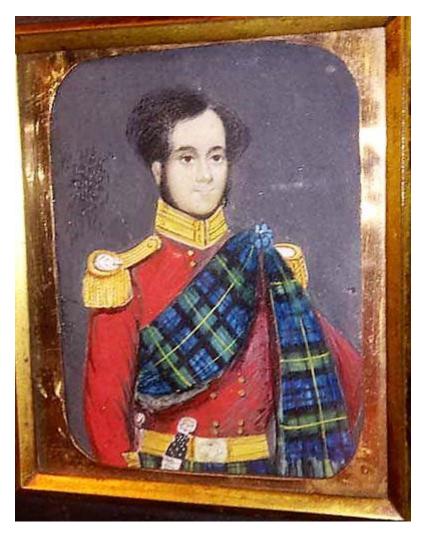
lows: "Sending this to-night. Quite well and busy." The following letter from the late officer's company commander has been received by Mr. Stewart Watts :- "Dr. Mr. Watts,-It is my painful duty to have to inform you of the death in action of your brother, Second-Lieut. D. W. S. Watts, of the York and Lancaster Regiment. The battalion had been detailed to take a German trench on the 12th inst., and going over they were met with a most intense artillery and machine-gun fire. Our casualties were very heavy, and both officers of 'A' Company were killed. 'These were your brother and Lieut. D. Vine. 'A' Company is under my command, but on this occasion 1 was acting as second in command and was left behind at the transport. We all wish to extend to you our deepest sympathy in this, your terrible loss. Your brother had previously been with the battalion for a long period, during which time he had proved himself a most gallant and efficient officer. His second stay was lamentably short, but it was long enough to show that his soldierly qualities were in no way impaired. The knowledge that ne did his duty and died whilst gallantly leading his men must be a slight consolation to you in your great trouble. Last night a party went out from here to the spot where your brother fell and found his body and collected various articles of his kit, which you will receive in due course. He will be buried just behind the line. -J. Horlington, Captain."



Donald's maternal grandfather

The painting below shows Donald's grandfather from his mother's family. He is mentioned in the Dewsbury Reporter newspaper article above. Lieut. Col. Donald Stewart was a paymaster in the 92nd (Gordon) Highlanders, Royal Artillery and served as an aide-de-camp and deputy assistant adjutant-general during the Crimean War. He died in Dover age 64 on the 16th May 1876 whilst living at 4 Castle Street.

Note that he is wearing the Gordon tartan in the painting.



Donald's Uncle, Captain Donald Stewart was also in the military and was one of the first adjutants in Dewsbury.



Donald's Medal card

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Donald's Medals





British War Medal



Victory Medal



