



Peter Spelman

1881-1914

Peter was born in Dundee, Scotland on 1st May 1881. His father was Philip Spelman, a Prison Warden born in St. Helier, Jersey in 1835 and died in 1909. His mother was Mary (nee Lynch) born in Ireland in 1845 and died in 1898. They were married on 24th November 1874 in Dundee.

Their other children were; Matthew, born in 1876, Mary, born in 1878 and Philip, born in 1879.

On the 1891 Scotland Census the family are living in accommodation at HM Prison in Perth where his father Philip was a Warden, having previously served as a soldier in the 91st Regiment of Highlanders.

Peter enlisted into the 3rd Battalion (Militia) of the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) at Perth in April 1899 and served until December 1900; his attestation papers state that he was a Millworker, 5ft 3in tall with brown hair and brown eyes.

On the 1901 Scotland Census his father is now retired and living at 28, Bernard Street, Dundee. Peter was by then a serving soldier in the Royal Scots Fusiliers at the Ayrshire Barracks, having enlisted into the Regiment on 9th February of that year.

The 1911 England and Wales Census shows Peter living at 1, Whitehead's Buildings, Dewsbury with his sister Mary's family, Mary had married a David Buchan who came from Perth. Peter's occupation was shown as a labourer at a chemical works. He was unmarried.

Mary had nine children; her youngest, born in 1922 was named Peter Spelman Buchan after his uncle. Peter Spelman Buchan was killed in action in Burma in 1945 serving with the King's Own Scottish Borderers. His remains were never identified for burial and he is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, Burma. (Now the Republic of the Union of Myanmar)

At the outbreak of World War 1 he was recalled as a Reservist into the Royal Scots Fusiliers in Dundee, serving as Private 6707 in the 1st Battalion. He was sent to the Western Front on 6th October 1914 and died of Tetanus in hospital at Le Touquet, France on 7th November 1914, having being wounded in action. He is buried in Le Touquet Paris-Plage Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Peter was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Peter is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph and the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady & St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

P Spelman

6707, 1st Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers who died on 07 November 1914

Remembered with Honour

Le Touquet-Paris Plage Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

