



George Wilson

1899-1918

George was born in Dewsbury on 1st February 1899. His father was also George Wilson, a carpet yarn spinner born in Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1914. His mother was Harriet (nee Fortes) born in Hartismere, Suffolk in 1860 and died in 1927. They were married in 1886.

Their other children were; Hubert Fortes, born in 1889, Blanche Fortes, born in 1891, Emmel William Fortes, born in 1893 and died in 1918, Sybil Fortes, born in 1897 and Ivor Fortes, born in 1903.

On the 1901 & 1911 Census Records the family lived at 94, Walker Street, Earlsheaton.

George attended Earlsheaton Council School and the Wesleyan Sunday school. He was a single man who worked in the Butchery Department of the Dewsbury Cooperative Society.

He enlisted in August 1915 and cannot have declared his true date of birth as he was only 16 years old at that time. He was sent to the Western Front on 8th November 1915 serving as Driver 32966 in "D" Battery 5th Howitzer Brigade Royal Field Artillery. He died in a hospital in Etaples, France from a Mastoid Abscess of the Ear on 27th May 1918 and was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. The Military Cemetery is to the north of the town, on the west side of the road to Boulogne. During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern and the southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick. In September 1919, ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, it is the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France.

George is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the War Memorial from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church which was relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Driver

G Wilson

32966, "D" Bty. 5th Howitzer Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 27 May 1918 Age 19

Son of George and Harriet Wilson, of 94, Walker St., Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Etaples Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.