



Gordon Land

1896 – 1916

Gordon was born in Thornhill Lees on 28th December 1896 and baptised on 27th January 1897 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was William Henry Land, an Iron Turner and Fitter in a colliery born Dewsbury in 1852 and died in 1927. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (née Rowley) born in Thornhill Lees in 1866 and died in 1941. They were married at Holy Innocents Church on 7th April 1896.

They had a daughter, Mary Doreen, born in Middlestown in 1910.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees, in 1911 at Middlestown and later at West View, Netherton near Wakefield and then 25, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury. In 1939 Elizabeth lived at Dewsbury Road, Ossett.

William was married in 1880 to Margaret Clarkson (born in 1859 and died in 1890) their children were; Nathan Henry, born in 1881 and died in 1882, Arthur, born in 1882, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1884, Edith, born in 1886, Georgina, born in 1887 and Florence, born in 1889. On the 1881 Census William and Margaret lived at Leeds Road, Dewsbury, in 1891 the family lived at Cromwell Road, Thornhill Lees; William's sister Sarah Ann is recorded as a boarder but she must have been there to look after the motherless children.

Gordon was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Grocer's Assistant at the Middlestown Co-operative store.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the 1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 200565. He was killed in action on 6th July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Gordon was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Gordon is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Gordon Land

200565, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 06 July 1916 Age 19

Son of William Henry and Elizabeth Ann Land, of 25, Vulcan Rd., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

