



James Stanley Gawthorpe

1897 – 1916

Stanley was born at Baildon Wood, Bolton, Bradford in 1897. His father was William Gawthorpe, an overlooker in the silk weaving trade, born in Bingley in 1868 and died in 1932. His mother was Ellen (née Baxter) born in Middlesbrough in 1868 and died in 1924. They were married at Charlestown Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Baildon on 11th July 1889.

Their other children were; Bertha, born in 1891, Edith May, born in 1893 and Jane Elizabeth, born in 1894.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 22, John's Street, Baildon and in 1911 at 35, Tanhouse Street, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Stanley was a single man who worked as a cloth finisher at Armitage and Rhodes Ltd. He was a member of the Ravensthorpe Congregationalist Church and was a keen member of their cricket and football teams. However, during his lifetime he indicated he would like to become confirmed into St. Saviour's Parish Church.

He attested into the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) on 28th December 1914 with the Service Number 240867 (3635) rising to the rank of Corporal. He was killed during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September when the regiment, as part of the 149th Division attacked the Salient near Thiepval known as the "Pope's Nose". His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Stanley was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On October 13th 1916 Private Ashton, an Orderly in the Royal Army Medical Corps in a hospital in Woolwich, London wrote to Stanley's parents after finding out that a Private Reginald Wood who was in the hospital had fought alongside Stanley during the battle. Private Wood stated; *"We were completely surrounded so we bombed our way back again to the German front line trench and there I saw Stanley laid at the mouth of a dugout. He had severe shrapnel wounds to the chest and legs and I knew for certain he was quite dead."*

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.

Stanley is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Corporal

Stanley Gawthorpe

240867, (3635) 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 September 1916
Age 19

Son of William Gawthorpe, of 35, Tan House St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks, and the late Ellen
Gawthorpe.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

GAWTHORPE S.