



Bernard Walton Batley

1891 – 1916

Bernard was born in Dewsbury on 18th May 1891. His father was Walton Batley, a Professor of Music born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1929. His mother was Hannah/Anna Maria (née Leadley) born in Knaresborough in 1856 and died in 1934. They were married at All Saints Parish Church, Dewsbury on 31st July 1884.

Their other children were; James Walton, born in 1885 and died in 1885, Mabel, born in 1886, Lewis Henry, born in 1890 and died in 1890 and Frank Walton, born in 1893.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 6, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 15, Moorlands Road, Dewsbury.

Bernard was a single man who was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School, finishing his education at Archbishop Holgate's School in York. His father was music master at both schools. Bernard was also a chorister at St. John the Baptist Church, Dewsbury where his father was the organist. In 1911 he was lodging at 52, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, Lancashire working as an apprentice optician. This was his career prior to the war, and his subsequent workplaces included Sheffield and Barrow-in-Furness.

He enlisted in November 1914 serving as Private 16/1228 with the 16th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), better known as the 1st Bradford Pals. After training, he was posted with his battalion to Egypt in December 1915, moving to France in the early spring of 1916. On 27th June 1916 he was struck in the back by a shrapnel bullet suffering serious injuries. He was transferred to hospital at Rouen, and from there evacuated back to England. After five days in the 2nd Western General Hospital in Rusholme, Manchester he was moved to the Stepping Hill Military Hospital, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire where he died on 8th August 1916. His parents and sister were with him when he died. He was buried with full military honours in Dewsbury Cemetery. Bernard was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bernard 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 Memorial Plaque to the Wheelwright Grammar School Boys who laid down their lives in the Great War and on the Dedicatory Wooden Board in the Library at Archbishop Holgate's School, York; the Library itself is a Memorial to the masters and boys of the school who gave their lives in the Great War.

In Memory of

Private

B W Batley

16/1228, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 08 August 1916

Remembered with Honour

Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

