



Charles Stead

1889 - 1916

Charles was born in Soothill Upper, Dewsbury in 1889. His father was Samuel Stead, a rag merchant born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1926. His mother was Jane (née Lumb) born in Leeds in 1868 and died in 1927. They were married at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 26th January 1889.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1891 and died in 1891, Annie, born in 1892 and died in 1892, Joseph Henry, born in 1896, Annie, born in 1898 and died in 1899 and Annie Louisa, born in 1902.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 27, Lucerne Road Court, Poulton-cum-Seacombe near Wallasey, Cheshire, in 1901 and 1911 at 56, Thornhill Street, Thornhill Lees and later at 114, Savile Road, Savile Town. Charles is recorded as being stationed at Kasr-el-Nil barracks in Cairo, Egypt in 1911.

Charles was connected to Savile Town Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. He was married on 20th September 1913 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Caterham, Surrey to Ellen Margaret Cooke (born in 1888) they lived at 74, Rosaville Road, Fulham, London and later at 66, Mayo's Road, Wood Green, London. They had a son, Ernest Charles Samuel, born in 1915. In 1940 Ellen emigrated to Canada.

He enlisted in 1907 serving as Private 7073 in the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. He spent two years in Egypt and at the outbreak of war he was on home service as an instructor following trouble with his eyesight. He was sent to the Western Front in April 1916 and was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on the first day of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on 15th September 1916. According to his obituary in the "*Dewsbury Reporter*" on 14th October 1916, he had been wounded in the arm and was making his way to a Dressing Station when he was killed by a shrapnel wound to the head. His body may have lain on the battlefield for one or two days before he was found by a soldier of the Grenadier Guards. His grave must have been lost or destroyed in later battles as his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Charles 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.

Charles 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 War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Charles Stead

7073, 1st Bn., Scots Guards who died on 15 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

