



Charlie Spink

1897 - 1916

Charlie was born in Birstall on 7th July 1897 and baptised in St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 5th September. His father was James Spink, a coachman and groom and later a furniture carter born in Batley in 1874 and died in 1947. His mother was Martha Ann (née Brooke) born in Gomersal in 1867 and died in 1953. They were married on 23rd December 1895 in St. Peter's Church, Birstall. Charlie was their only child.

On the 1901 Census he was living with his parents and maternal grandparents at 60, Royal Park Road, Headingley, Leeds, in 1911 at 24, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury with his parents and maternal grandparents. His parents later lived at 6, Kirtland Street, Savile Town.

Charlie was working in a woollen mill in 1911 as a bobbin boy but he gave his profession in 1916 as a French Polisher working at Bickers Department Store, Dewsbury. He was attached to the Ebenezer Congregational Church, Longcauseway where he had been a drummer and Staff Sergeant of the Boy's Brigade where his father was Captain. He was engaged to be married to Miss Martha Wood.

He attested on the 5th June 1916 at Pontefract into the Northumberland Fusiliers, later serving as Private 23807 in the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front around August. He received a shrapnel wound to the head during the Battle of the Somme on 11th October 1916 and underwent operations in France and at home after repatriation but died in hospital in Hove, Sussex on 15th November 1916. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Charlie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Charlie 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 War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and as Charles Spink on the and on the memorial plaque in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist).

In Memory of

Private

Charlie Spink

23807, 2nd Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 15 November 1916 Age 19

Son of James Spink, of 6, Kertland St., Saviletown, Dewsbury. Born at Birstall.

Remembered with Honour

Dewsbury Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

