



## **Charles Frederick Laycock**

### **1889 – 1917**

Charles was born in Dewsbury in 1889. His father was George Allen Laycock, a Coal Miner born in Kirkheaton in 1860 and died in 1929. His mother was Hannah (nee Auty) born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1948. They were married on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1888 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

Their other children were; George Albert, born in 1890, Lena, born in 1893, Gladys born in 1896, Richard, born in 1900 and William Mountain Laycock, born in 1912.

Hannah had a daughter, Ethel Maud Auty, born in 1887. She also had a son, William Mountain Laycock, born in 1912 and with whom she is living in 1939.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 2, Titus Hill Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 13, Back Vulcan Road, Flatts, Dewsbury. Sadly, George is an inmate of Dewsbury Workhouse.

Charles was a single man who was educated at Victoria Council School; he worked in the goods department at the Great Northern Railway Station, Dewsbury.

He enlisted at Pontefract on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1916 serving as Private 40080 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1916. He died of wounds in an Advanced Dressing Station on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1917 in the Ypres Salient; He is buried in Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm), Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) is located 2 Kms south-east of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. The commune of Zillebeke contains many Commonwealth cemeteries as the front line trenches ran through it during the greater part of the First World War. Railway Dugouts Cemetery is 2 Kms west of Zillebeke village, where the railway runs on an embankment overlooking a small farmstead, which was known to the troops as Transport Farm. The site of the cemetery was screened by slightly rising ground to the east, and burials began there in April 1915. They continued until the Armistice, especially in 1916 and 1917, when Advanced Dressing Stations were placed in the dugouts and the farm. They were made in small groups, without any definite arrangement and in the summer of 1917 a considerable number were obliterated by shell fire before they could be marked. The names "Railway Dugouts" and "Transport Farm" were both used for the cemetery. At the time of the Armistice, more than 1,700 graves in the cemetery were known and marked. Other graves were then brought in from the battlefields and small cemeteries in the vicinity, and a number of the known graves destroyed by artillery fire were specially commemorated. The cemetery now contains 2,459 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 430 of the burials are unidentified and 261 casualties are represented by special memorials.

Charles is 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

**C F Laycock**

40080, 9th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 21 January 1917

Remembered with Honour

**Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm)**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

