



Charles William Gallagher

1897 - 1917

Charles was born in Dewsbury in 1897; his birth name was registered as *Charles Willie Gallagher*. His father was also Charles Gallagher, a Cloth Finisher born in Huddersfield in 1853 and died in 1917. His mother was Fanny Elizabeth (nee Saville) born in Wakefield on in 1857 and died in 1939. They were married in 1874.

Their other children who could be traced were: Richard and William (twins) born in 1874 and both died in 1874, Elizabeth, born in 1876, Emma, born in 1880, Sarah Jane, born in 1882 and died in 1899, Sarah Ann, born in 1884, Esther, born in 1886, Joseph Leo, born in 1888 and served in World War 1, James, born in 1891 and died in 1891, John Edward (Johnny), born in 1893 and served in World War 1 and Winifred, born in 1895.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 95, Lidgate Lane, Dewsbury, in 1911 Fanny is living with five of her children at 95, Quarry Street, Track Road, Batley. She declared 13 children born to the marriage of which 5 had died. Her husband Charles is a lodger at 33, Victoria Lodging House, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. In Charles's obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter on 21st April 1917 their address is given as No. 1, Court 2, King Street, Batley Carr. Fanny later lived at 39, Woodhill, Batley Carr.

Charles was a single man who was educated at St. Joseph's RC School in Batley Carr and worked as a Spinner at Messrs Joseph Newsome and Sons Mill in Batley Carr.

He was a member of the Dewsbury Territorial Force at the outbreak of war and in August 1914 served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was later transferred into the 8th Battalion of The King's (Liverpool Regiment) with the Service Number 57600 and rose to the rank of Serjeant. He was sent to the Western Front on 31st December 1916 and was wounded in both knees on 5th March 1917 when a shell landed on his billet in France. He was taken to No 11 General Hospital at Camiers, about 4miles north of Etaples on the French coast but did not recover from the shock of a haemorrhage following the amputation of his right leg and died on 31st March 1917. He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern and the southern battlefields. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. 35 of these burials are unidentified.

Charles 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 in St. Joseph's RC Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of
Serjeant
Charles William Gallagher

57600, 8th Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on 31 March 1917 Age 19

Son of Fanny E. Gallagher, of 39, Woodhill, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, and the late Charles Gallagher.

Remembered with Honour
Etaples Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.