



Edward Burton

1895 – 1917

Edward was born in West Ardsley in 1895 and baptised on 22nd September 1895 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Woodkirk. His father was Walter Burton, a Miner born in West Ardsley in 1868 and died in 1921. His mother was Harriet Hannah (nee Ellis) born in Ossett in 1873 and died in 1920. They were married in St. Mary the Virgin Church on 24th March 1894.

Their other children were; Annie Elizabeth, born in 1894 and died in 1894, John William, born in 1898 and died of sickness in 1917 after discharge following service in World War 1, Robert, born in 1900 and died in 1919, Pollie (Polly), born in 1902 and died in 1921, Hannah Elizabeth, born in 1907, David, born in 1910 and Arnold, born in 1913.

Harriet had a son, Henry Ellis, born in 1891 and was killed in action 17th August 1915.

On the 1901 census the family lived at Westerton Road, West Ardsley and in 1911 at Farrah's Buildings, Albion Street, Ravensthorpe; Edward was working in a coal mine as a Trammer underground

Edward was educated at Hanging Heaton Church of England School and attended St. Paul's Church and Sunday school. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Moore at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 23rd June 1917.

He served as Serjeant 23580 in the 148th Company, Machine Gun Corps, attached to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. According to the report of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 18th August 1917, at the outbreak of war he was a member of the local volunteer force and was one of the first to go to France; he was gassed on 19th December 1916 and took leave in June 1917 after he was married. He was killed in action in Flanders on 19th July 1917 when the enemy had commenced a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas Shells on the Belgian coast around Nieuport. He was buried in Nieuport Military Cemetery, on the South side of the town, a French cemetery in which 107 British soldiers and one sailor were buried. It was closed in July 1917 as excessively dangerous. He is now commemorated by a Special Memorial Headstone in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Edward was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery is located 2 Kms east of Nieuwpoort (formerly Nieuport). From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramskapelle, to the sea. Most of Plot I of Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery was made in July and August 1917, but the cemetery was considerably enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and smaller burial grounds.

Edward 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 in Holy Innocents Parish Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of
Serjeant
E Burton

23580, 148th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 19 July 1917

Remembered with Honour
Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

