



Leonard Shackleton

1884 – 1917

Leonard was born in Dewsbury in 1884 and baptised at St. Michael and All Angel's Church, Thornhill on 3rd January 1885. His father was Thomas Shackleton, he had a number of different jobs in the textile industry born in Dewsbury in 1845 and died in 1914. His mother was Sarah (nee Lodge) born in Dewsbury in 1847 and died in 1922. They were married at St. Michael and All Angel's Church, on 25th December 1864.

Their other children were; Thomas William (birth surname Lodge) born in 1864 and died in 1867, Emma, born in 1867, Clara, born in 1868 and died in 1872, Edith Ann, born in 1872, Llewellyn Lodge, born in 1878, Alice Maud, born in 1882 and Stella, born in 1889.

In 1871 they lived at Cross Gate, Thornhill, in 1881, 1891 and 1901 at Top Road, Combs, Thornhill, in 1911 at Belmont Cottages, The Common, Thornhill and later at 15, The Town, Thornhill. In 1901 Leonard is living as a boarder at White Croft Farm in Emley, working as a cow man.

Leonard was educated at the Thornhill National School and prior to enlisting he worked as an Auctioneer's Clerk with Mr. R.S. Baldwin of Dewsbury. He was married to Ann Shaw (born in 1885 and died in 1942) at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 25th April 1905; they had two children, Ida, born and died in 1905 and Thomas, born and died in 1906. It appears that they had separated by 1911, as the Census shows Ann living with her parents in Kimberley Street, Thornhill Lees. Leonard is recorded twice; firstly, living with his family at Belmont Cottages, The Common, Thornhill, his occupation is stated as a Barman; secondly, working as a Waiter at the Wellington Hotel in Dewsbury. The publican's name was James Henry Hartley and whose sister living there was Dorothy Annie Eliza Hartley (born in 1895 and died in 1936). Interestingly, Leonard's Soldiers Effects were left to a Miss Dolly Hartley. Ann Shackleton was remarried to Matthias Walton (born in 1881 and died in 1963) on 27th December 1919 at Holy Innocents Church.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in September 1916 serving as Private 202782 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with a previous number 6185. He was wounded by gas poisoning at Nieupoort in Belgian Flanders on 22nd July 1917 where the enemy were inflicting a sustained bombardment of Mustard Gas. He died in No. 16 Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport on the French coast on 24th July 1917. He was buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. Leonard was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Le Treport is a small seaport 25 kilometres north-east of Dieppe. The Cemetery is 1.5 kilometres south of the town. During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3rd, 16th and 2nd Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7th Canadian, 47th and 16th USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

Leonard 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. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of
Private
Leonard Shackleton

202782, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 July 1917 Age 32

Son of Sarah Shackleton, of 15, The Town, Thornhill, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

