



Emmanuel Butler MM

1897 – 1917

Emmanuel was born in Sheffield in 1897. His father was also Emmanuel Butler, a Glass Blower born in Whitwood near Castleford in 1864 and died in 1948. His mother was Emma Holmes, born in Burn near Selby in 1862 and died in 1918. They were married on 28th June 1884 at All Saints Church, Whitwood Mere.

Their other children were; John William, born in 1885 and died in 1893, Benjamin, born in 1887 and died in 1908, Thomas, born in 1889 and served in World War 1, Ann, born in 1892 and died in 1892, Mary, born in 1894, Joseph, born in 1899 and served in World War 1 and George, born in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 21, St. John's Road, Canning Town, London, in 1901 at Carless Square, Knottingley, in 1911 at 11, George Street Thornhill Lees and later at Providence Street, Thornhill Lees.

Emmanuel was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and played football for the Thornhill Parish Church team. He worked as a Glass Bottle Hand at Kilner Brothers but at the time of enlistment he was working at Slaithwaite Mills. He was married in Edinburgh on 9th October 1916 to Agnes Moffat (born in 1896 and died in 1984) they did not have any children. According to the report on Emmanuel's death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* and the *Dewsbury District News* on 25th August 1917, his wife's address was given as 32, New Street, Batley, having moved from Coal Pit Lane, Carlinghow. Agnes was remarried in Edinburgh on 22nd December 1917 to John Edward Firth (born in Batley in 1891 and died in 1964). They had a daughter, Ellen Agnes Shearer Firth, born 25th September 1918. They lived at Canongate, Edinburgh.

He enlisted in June 1915 serving as Private 20974 in the 7th/8th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Western Front on 28th October that same year. He was wounded three times, including having been buried for four hours, as a result of being shelled, with a wounded thigh. He was awarded the Military Medal in April 1916 for gallantry in the field, but he had not been officially presented with it, having missed the presentation because he had been in hospital with shell shock. The award was published in the London Gazette on 9th July 1917. He was killed in action on the First Day of the Battle of Passchendaele on 31st July 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. In addition to the Military Medal, Emmanuel was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Emmanuel 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 Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Emmanuel Butler

M M

20974, 7th/8th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 31 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

BUTLER E. M.M.