



Ernest Sheard

1894 – 1917

Ernest was born in Thornhill on 27th January 1894 and baptised on 24th March 1894 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill. His father was Ellis Philip Sheard, a Monumental Mason born at Fallhouse, Bristfield in 1864 at died in 1928. His mother was Agnes (nee Hilditch) born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1940. They were married on 17th April 1884 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

Their other children were; Dermot, born in 1884, Grace Charlotte, born in 1889, Winifred Mary, born in 1896, Ellen (Helen) Mildred, born in 1899 and William Josiah, born in 1902.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Wells Road Thornhill, in 1901 and 1911 at Combs Road, Thornhill and later at Church View, Thornhill.

Ernest worked as a blacksmith at a colliery. He was married to Ethel Proctor (born in Frodingham, Scunthorpe in 1889 and died in 1962) on 16th August 1916 at St. Lawrence's Parish Church, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. They lived at 49, Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe.

He attested in Pontefract on 9th November 1914 into the 13th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment with the Service Number 16830 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was sent to the Western Front on 27th August 1915 and died of wounds on 5th May 1917 sustained during the Battle of Arras. He was buried at Ste. Catherine British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ste. Catherine is a village in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, adjoining the city of Arras on the north side. From March 1916 to the Armistice, Ste. Catherine was occupied by Commonwealth forces and for much of that time it was within the range of German artillery fire. The cemetery was started in March 1916 and used by the divisions and field ambulances stationed on that side of Arras until the autumn of 1917. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding area. Ste Catherine British Cemetery contains 339 First World War burials.

He 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
Lance Corporal

E Sheard

16830, 13th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 05 May 1917 Age 24

Son of Ellis P. and Agnes Sheard, of Church View, Thornhill, Dewsbury; husband of Ethel Sheard, of 49, Doncaster Rd., Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Remembered with Honour
Ste. Catherine British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.