

Stephen Cundy Haythorne 1883 - 1917

Stephen was born in Dewsbury on 6th December 1883. His father was William Haythorne, a Hairdresser born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1924. His mother was Alma Harriet (nee Taylor) born in Pontefract in 1854 and died in 1930. They were married on 12th May 1880 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Ellen, born in 1881 and died in 1885, Florence Alma, born in 1882, William, born in 1885, Frank, born in 1886 and died in 1887, Harold Leopold, born in 1888 and died in 1888, Annie, born in 1889, Sarah Mary, born in 1892 and died in 1892 and Arnold, born in 1893 and served in World War 1.

Stephen was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School; he was an ardent Church man, and taught for many years in St. James Mission Church Sunday school. He also often assisted in the services at St. John the Baptist Church in Dawgreen and in the Staincliffe Institution. He was also a member of the brotherhood of St. Andrew and of Dewsbury Junior Conservative Club. He was well known in Dewsbury Market Place as a hairdresser for 15 years and was married to Mary Waller (born in 1879 and died in 1941) on 4th January 1915 in Horncastle, Lincolnshire. They lived at 38, Clarke Street, Westborough, Dewsbury and did not have any children. Mary was remarried on 2nd June 1921 at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown to a widower, Sam Wilson (born in Morley in 1874 and died in 1955). In 1939 they were living in Croydon, Surrey.

He enlisted in April 1916 serving as Private 41767 in the 1st/5th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 23rd August 1917. He was killed in action on 9th October 1917 during the Battle of Poelcapelle which was part of the Battle of Passchendaele. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Stephen was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Stephen 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.



