



William Newsome

1883 - 1917

William was born in Ossett, Yorkshire in 1883. His father was John Newsome born in Ossett in 1854 and died in 1932. His mother was Martha (nee North) born in Ossett in 1853 and died in 1911. They were married on 4th November 1882 at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett.

Their other children were; George, born in 1884, John, born in 1887, Emma, born in 1888 and died in 1898, Elizabeth, born in 1890, Annie, born in 1893 and Thomas, born in 1894, and died in 1895.

On the 1901 Census they lived in Healey, Ossett and in 1911 at 6, Old Mill Yard, Healey.

William was married to Florence Taylor (born in 1886 and died in 1948) on 28th July 1917 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. They lived at Buckleys Buildings, Lowside, Earlsheaton. He was previously a Machine Cleaner at a Mungo and Shoddy Mill in Dewsbury but had earlier served in the Territorial Army.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 13th October 1916 serving as Private 242399 in the 2nd/6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) with an earlier Service Number 6047. He was sent to the Western Front on 5th January 1917. He returned home on 21st April suffering from septic poisoning and returned to the Front on 8th September and was killed in action on 20th November 1917 the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai. He was buried in Ribecourt Road Cemetery, Trescault, Pas-de-Calais, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Trescault is a village approximately 13 kilometres south-west of Cambrai. Ribecourt was taken on 20th November 1917 by the 6th Division, but at the conclusion of the Battle of Cambrai it remained practically on the British front line; it was lost in March 1918 and recaptured by the 3rd and 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisions on the following 27th September. Trescault remained in British hands until March 1918 and was retaken by the 37th Division on the following 12th September. In Ribecourt Road Cemetery the original graves of November 1917 to February 1918 were chiefly of the 51st (Highland) and 59th (North Midland) Divisions; but the remainder of the cemetery was made in October 1918, almost entirely by the 42nd Division (who called it the Divisional Cemetery, Trescault). There are now 254 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site plus a small number who are unidentified.

William 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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Oak Panel Roll of Honour in the now demolished church of St. Mary the Virgin, Gawthorpe & Chickenley Heath, which was relocated to Holy Trinity Church, Ossett and on the Ossett War Memorial and on the Batley War Memorial and on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the War Memorial in Batley Carr Working Men's Club.

In Memory of

Private

William Newsome

242399, 2nd/6th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 20 November 1917

Age 34

Husband of Florence Newsome, of 312, Buckley Buildings, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Ribecourt Road Cemetery, Trescault



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.