



William Haldenby

1881 - 1917

William was born in Burmantofts, Leeds on 31st December 1881. His father was William Samuel Haldenby, a foreman gas stoker for Leeds Corporation Gas Works born in Goole, Yorkshire in 1861 and died in 1920. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Dawtrey) born in Leeds in 1862 and died in 1939. They were married at St. Stephens Church, Burmantofts on 31st July 1880.

Their other children were: Lily Alice, born in 1883 and died in 1894, James, born in 1885, Hannah Elizabeth, born in 1890, Florence May, born in 1892, Ana, born in 1894 and died in 1899 and Clifford, born in 1898.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Buckley Street, Leeds, in 1891 at Lacy Street, Wortley, Leeds, in 1901 and 1911 at Winchester Road, Armley Leeds. There are many different spelling variations of their surname on the above records.

William was married to Mary Anne Wright at St. Botolph's Church, Armley, Leeds in 1905. They had three children; Evelyn, born in 1907 and twins Edna and William, born in 1912. On the 1911 Census they lived at 109, Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe where William worked as a case fitter at Cottam's Victoria Piano Works, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted on 1st July 1916 serving as Private 1585 in the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and was sent to the Western Front in February 1917. He was killed during the Battle of Passchendaele on 14th October 1917 whilst he was returning to Dulwich Camp, near Elverdinghe after his battalion had been sent to get cleaned up at the baths at Elverdinghe Chateau following their involvement in the Battle of Poelcapelle. The serving of dinner was being completed when the battalion was caught in an air raid by a German aeroplane which dropped five bombs, killing six men outright and wounding twelve others. In a letter written to William's wife, he was a short distance away from one of these bombs and, although no wounds were found on his body he "died instantaneously from shock." The six men killed were buried side by side in Bleuet Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The cemetery is located 3 kilometres to the north-west of Ieper (Ypres) near the village of Elverdinge. Bleuet Farm was used as a dressing station during 1917 Allied offensive on this front. The cemetery was begun in a corner of the farm and was in use from June to December 1917, though a few of the burials are of later date. Two graves were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice from isolated positions close by. There are now 442 First World War burials in the cemetery.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

W Haldenby

15858, 1st Bn., Scots Guards who died on 14 October 1917

Remembered with Honour

Bleuet Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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