



Ben Morton (Mouton)

1888 - 1917

Ben was born in Batley in 1888. His father was George France Morton, a Hand Loom Weaver born in Holmfirth in 1863 and died in 1939. His mother was Emma (nee Armitage) born in Skelmanthorpe near Huddersfield in 1863 and died in 1918. They were married on 25th December 1884 at All Saints Church, Batley.

Their other children were; Amy, born in 1885 and died in 1894, Ann, born in 1892 and Fred, born in 1895 and died of wounds on 3rd November 1918.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 41, Brearley Street, Batley, in 1901 at 13, Belvedere Road, Batley and in 1911 at 82, Wharfe Street, Savile Town.

Ben was married to Mary Elizabeth McGuire (born in Leeds in 1885 and died in 1965) on 27th January 1912 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees, they had no children. He worked as a dyer's labourer in the skin department at Messrs G. H. Hirst, Savile Town. They lived at 30, Halliley Street, Dewsbury. On 22nd March 1919 Mary was remarried at All Saints Church, Dewsbury to a widower, George Frederick Hyomes (born in Doncaster in 1882 and died in 1933). They had a son, George, born in 1925.

He served as Private 21859 in the 6th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele on 24th August 1917; according a report on his death in the Dewsbury Reporter he was seen to fall by a fellow soldier but was never seen again. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ben 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.

Ben is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library. For some unknown reason his surname is spelt *Mouton* on both these commemorations.

In Memory of

Private

Ben Morton

21859, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 August 1917

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

