



## **William Langley**

### **1895 - 1917**

William was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1895. His full birth name was *Thomas William Balchin Langley*. His father was Thomas Peter Langley, a certificated teacher, born in Rossett, Denbighshire, Wales in 1867 and died in 1925. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Balchin) born in Birmingham in 1865 and died in 1949. They were married in the parish of St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon in 1894.

Their other children were; Olive Elizabeth, born in Chesterfield in 1897 and died in 1913, Peter Finchett, born in Leckhampstead, Berkshire in 1901 and Winifred Mary, born in West Isley, Berkshire in 1903.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at The School, Leckhampstead, in 1911 at 21, Alfred Place, Dewsbury. They later moved to 17, Headfield Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

William was a single man educated at an Exeter Secondary School and worked as a draper's apprentice at Johnson and Balmforth's Dewsbury, but immediately before enlisting he was working in Doncaster.

He volunteered and enlisted as a "Kitchener Man" in June 1915 into the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 12/1507 going out to Egypt on 22<sup>nd</sup> December of the same year, before being sent to the Western Front a month later. He later came home suffering from trench fever before returning to the front. He was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1917 by the bursting of a shell which also killed two of his companions. He was buried in White House Cemetery, St. Jean-Les-Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

The Cemetery is located north-east of Ieper (Ypres) in the direction of Roeselare/Brugge. White House Cemetery was begun in March 1915 and used until April 1918 by units holding this part of the line. It then comprised most of the present Plots I and II; but after the Armistice these Plots were completed, and III and IV added, when graves were brought in from the battlefields around Ypres (now Ieper) and from a number of small burial grounds. There are now 1,163 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 322 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 16 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 28 casualties who were buried in other cemeteries, but whose graves could not be found on concentration.

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 War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

# William Langley

12/1507, 12th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 15 October 1917 Age 22

Son of Thomas P. and Elizabeth Langley, of 17, Headfield Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

White House Cemetery, St. Jean-Les-Ypres



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

