



William Crosby

1894 - 1917

William was born on June 12th 1894. His father was George Crosby, a provisions merchant born in Sheffield in 1855 and died in 1904. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Barber) born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1928. They were married in Dewsbury in 1891.

Their other children were; May, born in 1892 and Ellen, born in 1903.

George was previously married in 1887 to Ann Elizabeth Haigh (born in 1854 and died in 1888). They had a daughter; Edith Ann Elizabeth, born in 1888.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 10, Park Street, Crackenedge, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 8, Park Street, Crackenedge.

William was educated at Carlton Road Primary School, and was closely associated with Dewsbury Primitive Methodist Chapel on Wellington Road. He worked as a shop assistant at Crosby and Allan, his late father's provisions business in Market Street, Dewsbury and was married to Maud Emma Dunhill (born in 1891 and died in 1922) on 23rd April 1916 at the Primitive Methodist Chapel; they had one child, Marjorie, born in 1916.

He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 26367 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was killed in action in the aftermath of the Battle of Passchendaele on 25th November 1917 and was reported by a comrade to have been killed while leaving the trenches. He is buried in Buffs Road Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Buffs Road Cemetery is located to the North East of Ypres. Buffs Road was the name given to a small lane, which ran between Boundary Road and Admiral's Road, just to the north of the hamlet of Wieltje. The cemetery was made and used by fighting units between July 1917 and March 1918, and after the Armistice graves were brought into it from the battlefields. There are now 289 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 86 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to ten casualties whose graves in the cemetery were destroyed by shell fire.

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

William Crosby

26367, 2nd Bn, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 25 November 1917 Age 23

Husband of the late Maud Emma Crosby.

Remembered with Honour
Bufs Road Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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