



Ben Redfearn

1893 - 1917

Ben was born in Dewsbury on 1st March 1893. His father was Samuel Redfearn, a rag grinder born in Batley in 1861 and died in 1899. His mother was Martha (nee Street) born in Staincliffe, Dewsbury in 1859 and died in 1927. They were married on 25th July 1883 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1883, Tom, born in 1885 and died in 1885, Martha, born in 1886 and died in 1886, Amy, born in 1887 and died in 1891, Ada, born in 1889 and Sam, born in 1892 and was killed in action 16th August 1917.

On the Census Records for 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family lived at 31, Back Tweedale Street, Dewsbury.

Ben was a mill worker at F. Doble and Company in Ravensthorpe and was married to Doris Ann Smith (born in 1896 and died in 1969) on 13th May 1916 at All Saints Church, Batley Carr. They lived with her grandparents at 7, David Lane, Mill Road, Batley Carr and did not have any children. She later lived at 102, Colbeck's Place, King Street, Batley Carr. Doris was remarried in 1919 to Ernest Squire/Squires (born in 1894 and died in 1965). They had two children between 1920 and 1921.

He served as Private 38829 in the 9th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment he had been wounded twice previously and was killed on the 22nd October 1917 by a shell during the Battle of Passchendaele. He and another dozen or so men were taking shelter from the heavy shell fire near to their signalling station when a shell burst among them and killed them all instantly. They were just leaving the trench they had been in for the last 4 days. A report in the Dewsbury Reporter on 3rd November 1917 stated that a comrade in a letter to his family wrote, "*We buried him the next day.*" When the battlefields were cleared post-war, 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 and on the War Memorial in the now demolished Church of St. John the Baptist, Westtown, Dewsbury which is now lost.

His surname was spelt as *Redfern* in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission until September 1918 when Dewsbury Sacrifices sent the necessary proof to the relevant authorities and the records were duly amended to show the correct spelling. In due course his name will be corrected on the panel on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Ben Redfearn

38829, 9th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 22 October 1917

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

REDFERN B.