



Charles Haigh

1883 - 1917

Charles was born in Soothill, Batley on 7th December 1883. His father was John Thomas Haigh, a woollen waste puller born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1927. His mother was Eliza (nee Bland) born in Kirkby Overblow, Yorkshire in 1858 and died in 1933. They were married in Dewsbury in 1878.

Their other children were; Thomas William, born in 1880, Herbert, born in 1881 and died from of sickness caused by war service on 31st May 1919, Harry, born in 1892 and Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1894.

Charles was educated at Eastborough Council School and was connected with Eastborough Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday school. He worked for 18 years as a Coal Miner/Hewer for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton at Shaw Cross Pit. He also worked in the gallery pay box at the Dewsbury Empire Theatre for 6 years. He was married to Sarah Hannah Broadbent (born in Dewsbury in 1884) on 26th January 1907 at the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel in Dewsbury. They lived at 1, Victoria Buildings, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and did not have any children. Sarah was remarried on 28th January 1920 at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill, Batley to Herbert Fawcett (born in 1877). They emigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, departing Liverpool aboard the RMS "*Empress of France*", arriving at St. Johns, New Brunswick on 6th March 1920.

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery serving as Gunner 265161 and was later attached to the Tank Corps around February 17th 1917 with the Service Number 110359 and was sent to the Western Front in August 1917. He died in a dressing station on 29th November 1917 from wounds sustained in the aftermath of the Battle of Passchendaele. He was buried in Canada Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

One of his colleagues reported that he was struck in the head by a piece of shrapnel and that he had helped carry him to his final resting place.

Canada Farm Cemetery is located 8.5 kilometres north-west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre, The Cemetery took its name from a farmhouse used as a dressing station during the 1917 Allied offensive. Most of the burials are of men who died at the dressing station between June and October 1917. There are now 907 First World War burials in the cemetery.

Charles 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. Philips Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the War Memorial in Eastborough School to former pupils.

In Memory of

Gunner

Charles Haigh

110359, Reinforcements, Royal Field Artillery who died on 29 November 1917 Age 33

Son of J. T. and Eliza Haigh, of Dewsbury; husband of Sarah Fawcett (formerly Haigh), of I, Victoria Buildings, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Canada Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Steven Van Den Eynde, Aalst, Belgium.