



Percy Crowther

1898 - 1917

Percy was born in Thornhill in 1898. His father was Benjamin Crowther, a coal miner (hewer) born in Thornhill in 1869 and died in 1937. His mother was Ellen (nee Crossley) born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1944. They were married in Dewsbury in 1891.

Their other children were; Crossley, born in 1891, Robert, born in 1894, William, born in 1903 and Marion, born in 1908.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Edge Top, Thornhill and in 1911 at Sunny Terrace, Thornhill Lees.

Percy was a single man who in 1911 worked as an apprentice joiner but prior to enlistment he worked in the finishing department for Messrs Wormalds and Walker Limited.

He was called up on 18th May 1916 serving as Private 37653 in the 7th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 15th March 1917; he returned home on 19th May and went out again on 28th July 1917. He was killed in action by a shell burst on the 25th October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele and was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Percy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, and the cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49th (West Riding), the 38th (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 39 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate three casualties known to be buried among them.

Percy 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

P Crowther

37653, 7th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 25 October 1917 Age 19

Son of Benjamin and Ellen Crowther, of 142, Sunny Terrace, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Bard Cottage Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

