



Lewis Cowling

1899-1918

Lewis was born in Dewsbury on 10th April 1899. His father was George Cowling, a Teamer born in Howden, Yorkshire in 1858 and died in 1933. His mother was Hannah Mary (nee Render) born in Winterton, Lincolnshire in 1860 and died in 1944. They were married on 4th June 1878 at St. Andrew's Church, Burton-upon-Stather, Lincolnshire.

Their other children were; Charles, born in 1878, Lilian, born in 1880 and died in 1882, Walter, born in 1882, Leonard, born in 1884 and died in 1889, Nellie, born in 1886, Beaumont, born in 1889, Elsie, born in 1892, Doris, born in 1894 and Edith, born in 1897.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Lees Moor Road, Thornhill Lees, in 1891 at 6, High Street, Batley, in 1901 at 10, Wood Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 2, Clarence Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury and later at 27, Thornhill Street, Savile Town.

Lewis was a single man who was employed by Mr. William C. Wakefield, Chemical Manufacturers, Savile Town.

He enlisted in April 1917 serving as Private 65638 in the 1st/5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front on 31st March 1918. He was killed in action in Northern France on 12th April 1918 during the 2nd Battle of the Lys; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Lewis was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, which is located 12.5 Kms south of Ypres (now Ieper). The memorial commemorates the 11,349 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave and died in the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

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

In Memory of

Private

Lewis Cowling

65638, 1st/5th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 12 April 1918

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

COWLING L.