



Gilbert Mitchell

1899-1918

Gilbert was born in Dewsbury in 1899. His father was Tom Mitchell, a Woollen Spinner born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1944. His mother was Melinda (nee Mayman) born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1949. They were married on 3rd August 1889 at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Herbert, born in 1890 and served in World War 1, Gertrude, born in 1893 and died in 1903, Grace, born in 1895 and Hilda born in 1906.

On the Census Records for 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family lived at 49, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury which was the home of Gilbert's maternal grandmother Mrs. Ann Mayman until her death in 1904.

Gilbert was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and worked as a Cobbler's Apprentice for Mr. T. Archer, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in June 1917 as Private 35170 in the 9th Training Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 31st March 1918, having being transferred to "B" Company 5th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment as Private 35212. According to his Soldier's Effects Record he died in the 137th Field Ambulance in France on 12th April 1918 from wounds sustained during the 2nd Battle of the Lys. His burial record or his actual grave must have been lost in later battles or an administration error, as his remains were never identified for reburial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Gilbert 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.

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

In Memory of

Private

Gilbert Mitchell

35212, "B" Coy. 5th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 12 April 1918 Age 18

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mitchell, of 49, Huddersfield Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

MITCHELL G.