



Edward Arthur Whittles

1879-1918

Edward was born in Howden Clough near Birstall in 1879. His father was Joseph Whittles, a Woollen Manufacturer born in Leeds in 1842 and died in 1894. His mother was Ursula Stewart (nee Gulline) born in Tadcaster in 1843 and died in 1930. They were married on 18th October 1866 at Dewsbury All Saints Church.

Their other children were; Hannah Maria, born in 1867, John, born in 1869, Henry Erskine, born in 1870 and died in 1871, Robert Gulline, born in 1872 and died in 1877, Frederick Erskine, born in 1874, Jessie Gertrude, born in 1875 and Margaret Gulline, born in 1882.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census records the family lived at 48, Victoria Crescent, Dewsbury, on the latter, Edward had moved to live and work in Leicester as an assistant in a Hotel.

Edward was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School and was married on 25th August 1906 at Holy Trinity Church, Louth, Lincolnshire to Winifred Saunderson (born in Caistor, Lincolnshire in 1879 and died in 1969). On the 1911 census Edward is a Publican's Manager and Winifred is assisting in the business. They are living at 99, High Street, Leicester and they have two barmaids living with them and a domestic servant. They later ran a public house at 16, Hambleton Road, Leicester and adopted a baby girl, Mary Ursula on 23rd January 1915. In 1919 Winifred was living in Nottingham and later moved to Paignton, Devon.

He attested in Leicester on 6th December 1915 with the Service Number 7996 into the London Regiment and was later sent to France on 22nd June 1916 serving as Private 513867 in "A" Company. 2nd/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) but was then sent to Salonika and then Palestine. He returned to the Western Front in July 1918 and was killed in action in Flanders on 21st August 1918 and was buried in the field; in February 1922 his remains were reburied in Locre No. 10 Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Edward was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Locre (now Loker) is a village 10 Kilometres south-west of Ypres (Ieper) and was in Allied hands during the greater part of the war, and field ambulances were stationed in the Convent of St. Antoine. The village changed hands several times between 25th and 30th April 1918, when it was recaptured by the French. The hospice, or convent, was the scene of severe fighting on 20th May, but was not retaken until first week in July. Locre No.10 Cemetery is one of a number made by the French troops in the Spring of 1918, but the graves of 248 French soldiers were later removed to another burial ground. The Commonwealth and German graves were brought into the cemetery from the battlefields after the Armistice. The cemetery now contains 58 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 14 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to three casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Edward 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 in Wheelwright Grammar School to former pupils who died in World War 1.

In Memory of

Private

Edward Arthur Whittles

513867, "A" Coy. 2nd/14th Bn., London Regiment (London Scottish) who died on 21 August 1918 Age 39

Son of Joseph and Ursula Stewart Whittles; husband of Winifred Whittles, of Marwin House, Upper Morin Rd., Preston, Paignton, Devon. Native of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Locre No.10 Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.