



Richard Durkin

1896-1918

Richard was born in Dewsbury on 15th October 1896 and baptised in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 8th November 1896. His father was Charles Durkin, a Colliery Banksman, born in Dewsbury in 1868 and was killed on 9th August 1897 in an explosion at Thornhill colliery. His mother was Ann (nee Cady) born in Dewsbury in 1866, and died in February 1948. They were married in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 19th November 1895.

On the 1901 Census Richard and his mother were living at 138, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 134, Myers Buildings, High Street, Westtown and later at 17, Ingham Road, Westtown. Ann was living at 20, Park Avenue, Westtown at the time of her death.

Richard was an only child who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church; he was a single man who in 1911 was employed as a Chain Boy for a Railway Company.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the Army Cyclist Corps with the Service Number 17801 and was later transferred to the 9th Battalion of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment serving as Private 28317. He was killed in action in Belgian Flanders on 17th April 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Richard was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Richard 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

Richard Durkin

28317, 9th Bn., The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment who died on 17 April 1918 Age 21

Son of Mrs. Ann Durkin, of 17, Ingham Rd., West Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

