



Bertram James Darton

1895-1918

Bertram was born in St. Ippolitts near Hitchin, Hertfordshire in 1895. His father was Charles Darton, a General Dealer, Grocer and later a Greengrocer and Fruiterer born in Hitchin in 1856 and died in 1933. His mother was Martha (nee Catterill) born in Pirton near Hitchin in 1854 and died in 1924. They were married in 1877.

Their other children were; Charles, born in 1878, Lizzie, born in 1879, Edward John, born in 1881 and died in 1897, Minnie Rose, born in 1883, George, born in 1885, Grace, born in 1888 and Alfred, born in 1892.

On the 1891 census the family lived in Gosmore, St. Ippolitts, in 1901 at Moorlands Avenue, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 25, Waverley Terrace, Dewsbury and later at Fall Lane, Westtown.

Bertram was educated at Carlton Road Council and was employed as a Teamer for Mr. Lockwood, Contractor in Batley at the time of his marriage at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 23rd May 1914 to Rebecca Stott (born in 1895 and died in 1982), he later worked for British Dyes at Huddersfield. They lived at 29, Kirkgate, Hanging Heaton and later at the home of Rebecca's parents at 8, Highgate Street, Hanging Heaton and had two sons; Cyril, born in 1915 and died in 1915 and Wilfred, born in 1917 and died in 1919. Rebecca was remarried on 3rd April 1920 at St. Paul's Church to Percy Tolson (born in 1893 and died in 1978) they had a daughter, Dorothy Alice, born in 1922 and died in 1957.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1917 into the York and Lancaster Regiment with the Service Number 204649, being later transferred to the 1st/7th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 325021 and was sent to the Western Front in June 1917. In April 1918 his wife received news that he was seriously ill in hospital in Boulogne suffering from the effects of gas poisoning; she immediately departed for France along with his mother Martha, they arrived on Sunday 28th April but sadly he had died the previous day on 27th April 1918. He was buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Bertram was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Rebecca and Martha stayed on for his funeral on Tuesday 30th April before returning home.

Boulogne was one of the three base ports most extensively used by the Commonwealth armies on the Western Front throughout the First World War. It was closed and cleared on the 27th August 1914 when the Allies were forced to fall back ahead of the German advance, but was opened again in October and from that month to the end of the war; Boulogne and Wimereux formed one of the chief hospital areas. Until June 1918, the dead from the hospitals at Boulogne itself were buried in the Cimetiere de L'Est, one of the town cemeteries. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery contains 5,577 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. Unusually, the headstones are laid flat in this cemetery, due to the sandy soil.

Bertram 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 Hanging Heaton War Memorial in St. Paul's Churchyard and on the Memorial Plaque inside St. Paul's Church.

In Memory of

Private

Bertram James Darton

325021, 1st/7th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 27 April 1918 Age 23

Son of Charles and Martha Darton; husband of Rebecca Darton, of 8, Highgate St., Hanging Heaton, Batley, Yorks. Native of Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Boulogne Eastern Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

