



William Nicholson

1893-1918

William was born on 18th December 1893 and was baptised at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Blackburn on 14th January 1894. His father was Patrick Nicholson, a Cotton Grinder born in Preston in 1858 and died in 1928. His mother was Ellen (nee McGuire) born in Birkenhead in 1861 and died in 1902. They were married at St. Mary's Church in 1879.

Their other children were; Elizabeth Mary, born in 1879, John, born in 1881 and served in World War 1 and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Catherine, born in 1882, Thomas, born in 1884 and served in World War 1, Ellen, born in 1884 and died in 1885, Mary, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Mary Ellen, born in 1889 and Annie, born in 1891.

On the Census Records for 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family lived at 33, Eccles Row, Blackburn. Patrick is recorded as living at 80, Old Westgate, Dewsbury as stated in the attestation papers of Thomas (who served as John Thomas, adding his confirmation name) who enlisted in Dewsbury on 9th December 1915. William's obituary in the Blackburn Times on 21st September 1918 gives his father's address as 10, Commercial Street, Blackburn.

William was a single man who was educated at St. Mary's Roman Catholic School, Blackburn and worked as a Weaver.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in 1915 serving as Private 26427 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was posted to Salonica in the Balkan Campaign but was invalided home suffering from fever; upon his recovery he was sent to the Western Front and was killed in action in France on 11th August 1918 during the Battle of Amiens, he was buried in the field and in 1920 his remains were moved to Bouchoir New British Cemetery, Somme, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bouchoir is a village on the straight main road from Amiens to Roye. The village passed into German hands on 27th March 1918 but was recovered by the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade on 9th August 1918. The New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought there from small Commonwealth cemeteries and from the battlefields round Bouchoir. Almost all date from March, April or August 1918 and the cemetery now contains 763 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 231 of which are unidentified.

William 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 Blackburn Roll of Honour kept in Blackburn Library.

In Memory of

Private

William Nicholson

26427, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 11 August 1918 Age 24

Son of Patrick Nicholson, of 10 Commercial St., Blackburn.

Remembered with Honour
Bouchoir New British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

