



William Breheney

1881 – 1915

William was born in Dewsbury on 14th September 1881; his surname was recorded as *Brieheney*. His father was Patrick Breheney, a Farm Labourer born in Dunmorán, County Sligo, Ireland around 1842 and died in 1914. His mother was Margaret (nee Geraghty) born in Dunmorán around 1843 and died in 1917. They were married in 1859.

Their other children were; Patrick, born around 1863, Thomas, born around 1865, Mary, born around 1867, James, born around 1871 and served in World War 1, Peter, born around 1873. All were born in Dunmorán; John, born in Dewsbury in 1878 (surname recorded as *Brettany*)

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Nowells Yard, Dawgreen, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 2, Bagshaw Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Mitchell Laithes Farm, Ossett and in 1911 at Sands Lane, Earlsheaton.

William worked as a Teamer for Mr. A. Parkinson, a General Carrier in Dewsbury. He was married to Ellen Johnson (born in 1876 and died in 1951) at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 25th December 1903. They had four children; Margaret, born in 1904, Patrick Joseph, born in 1906, William, born in 1908 and Ellen, born in 1913. The family lived at 3, Nowells Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Ellen previously had a son; Alfred (Fred) Johnson, born in 1893 and died of wounds 12th May 1917.

He enlisted in Crosshaven, County Cork, Ireland on 29th December 1914 serving as Private 5100 in the 5th Battalion Connaught Rangers. He served in the Gallipoli Campaign at Suvla Bay in August 1915, and then the Battalion were sent to fight in Salonica in the Balkan Campaign on 5th October. He was killed in action during the Battle of Kosturino on 7th December 1915, when the Bulgarians attacked and which was the worst day of the war for the Connaught Rangers. Some 138 men were killed in mostly hand-to-hand fighting. A further 130 were taken prisoner. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial, Central Macedonia, Greece. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Doiran Memorial stands near Doiran Military Cemetery, which is situated in the north of Greece close to the border with Northern Macedonia and near the south-east shore of Lake Doiran. The Memorial stands on what was called Colonial Hill, and can be seen from a distance and is a landmark. The Memorial serves the dual purpose of Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force (for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that force), and place of commemoration for more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known.

William 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 and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of

Private

William Breheney

5100, 5th Bn., Connaught Rangers who died on 07 December 1915 Age 35

Husband of Helen Breheney, of 3, Nowells Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Doiran Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

W BREHENEY