



William George Russell

1874 – 1915

William was born in Aberaman (Treaman) Glamorgan, South Wales in 1874. His father was Thomas Russell, a Gas Fitter and later an Assistant Gas Works manager born in Nottingham near Weymouth, Dorset in 1842. His mother was Sophia (nee Paine) born in Piddlehinton, Dorset in 1836 and died in 1875. They were married on 8th May 1864 in Radipole near Weymouth.

Their other children were; Tom, born in Axbridge, Somerset in 1865, Alfred, born in Axbridge, in 1866, Alice Mary, born in Axbridge in 1869 and Ellen, born in Newport, South Wales in 1875.

On the 1871 Census the family are living at 6, Merlin Passage, Ledbury, near Hereford, in 1881 at the Seamer Road Gasworks, Scarborough, where William's father was the Assistant Manager. His then wife is named as Sarah B Russell and she is 20 years older than her husband. On the 1891 they are living at 10, Brunel Street, Wortley, Leeds and Thomas's then wife is named as Elizabeth, born in Hackness near Scarborough in 1841; both William and his father's occupations are shown as Coal Hawkers. No marriage records have been found for Thomas to either of his declared wives. They have not been traced on the 1901 Census but Thomas appears on the 1911 census as a widower living in The Combs, Thornhill in the house of his daughter Alice, who was by then Mrs. Joseph Leaf.

William was married in 1903 to Johannah Mildred Thompson (born in 1884 and died in 1948), they lived at 40, Wells Road, Thornhill and had five children; Thomas William, born in 1904, John Alfred, born in 1906, Beatrice, born in 1908, George, born in 1909 and died in 1909 and Martha, born in 1910. In 1911 his occupation is given as a Labourer in a Coke Oven Plant. Johannah was remarried in 1926 to a widower, Willie Coburn (born in 1879 and died in 1949).

He served as Private 8461 in the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Gallipoli Campaign on 9th May 1915, he was killed in action on 4th June 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsular, Turkey. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who were lost at sea, in one of the troopships sunk off Gallipoli. Over 20,000 names are commemorated on this memorial.

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 St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

William George Russell

8461, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 04 June 1915

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

RUSSELL W. G.