



William (Willie) Chambers

1892 - 1915

Willie was born in Thornhill Lees on 30th October 1892. His father was William Chambers, a Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1868. His mother was Cecilia Kaye (nee Croft) born in 1851 and died in 1900. They were married at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 28th February 1892. No death record has been found for his father.

Cecilia had a daughter, Eveline Croft, born in 1888.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Kilner's Cottages, Lees Hall Road, Dewsbury. The 1911 census records Willie as living with his mother's brother, Walter Croft at 2, Back Albion Hotel, Thornhill Edge; his occupation was a Pit Labourer below ground. His obituary stated that he latterly lived with his uncle, James Chambers at 81, Edge Road, Thornhill Edge. He was unmarried.

He attested into the Dewsbury Territorials in 1912 and was called up at the outbreak of war serving as Private 1079 in the 2nd Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. The Regiment was in Dublin, but formed part of the expeditionary force that bore the brunt of the German advance. On 20th August 1914, his aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs James Chambers received a card from him saying that he was going into the 'firing line'. After that they heard nothing more and the letters and newspapers they sent to him were also returned. He was reported missing on 29th August 1914 in the Ypres Salient. His family were officially notified of his death through an intimation from the War Office dated the 14th of October 1915, which stated that his death; "*occurred at a place unknown and was reported in an official list from the German Government through the American Embassy on the 9th of April 1915, the cause of death is unknown.*" His death is therefore officially recorded as being the 9th of April 1915; his remains were never identified for burial and so his name is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Willie was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Willie is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Private
William Chambers

10790, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 09 April 1915

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

CHAMBERS W.