



Edgar Russum

1888-1918

Edgar was born in Dewsbury in 1888. His father was Walter George Russum, a Woollen Cloth Agent born in Leeds in 1847 and died in 1923. His mother was Jane (nee Skelsey) born in Balby with Hexthorpe, Doncaster in 1848 and died in 1919. They were married at the Church of St. Lawrence, Hatfield near Doncaster in 1877.

Their other children were; George Hubert, born in Leeds in 1878, Fredrick Skelsey, born in Leeds in 1880, Walter Percival, born in Dewsbury in 1882 and Margaret Elsie, born in Dewsbury in 1884.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at at 31, Cliff Road, Headingley, Leeds, in 1891 at 34, West Park Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 14, Fairfield Terrace, West Park Street, Dewsbury.

Edgar was a single man who attended the United Congregational (Ebenezer) Church on Longcauseway, Dewsbury and was employed as a Clerk for a Civil Engineering Company.

He enlisted in March 1916 into the 11th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Public School Battalion) serving as Private 10941 and after training at Oxford and Edinburgh he was sent to the Western Front in August 1916; at some stage he was transferred to "B" Company 3rd Battalion and seconded for a time to the 5th Entrenching Battalion, taking part in the Battles of the Somme and the Aisne and the capture of Thiepval; In early 1917 he was invalided home with septic poisoning and was hospitalised in Glasgow and Blackpool for some time. At the beginning of 1918 he was posted to Salonika but in July his Battalion returned to the Western Front. He was killed in action in France on 17th October 1918 and was buried in Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, Nord, France. Edgar was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Le Cateau is a small town about 19 kilometres south-east of Cambrai. Highland Cemetery is about 1 kilometre south of the town on the road to Wassigny. After the Battle of Le Cateau (26th August 1914), the town remained in German hands until the middle of October 1918. The original cemetery was made by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division after the fighting of 17th October; the name of Highland Cemetery is suggestive at once of the comparatively high ground on which it stands and of the 32 graves of the 13th (Scottish Horse) Battalion, Black Watch, found in this plot. The cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when graves of October and November 1918 were brought in from isolated positions on all sides of Le Cateau. The Cemetery now contains 624 First World War burials.

Edgar 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 Memorial Plaque in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist)

In Memory of

Private

Edgar Russum

10941, "B" Coy. 3rd Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 17 October 1918 Age 31

Son of Walter George and Jane Russum, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.