



George Albert Taylor 1876 – 1915

George was born in Louth, Lincolnshire in 1876. His father was Henry James Taylor, a Railway Porter and later an Auctioneer's Assistant born in Louth in 1853 and died in 1907. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Askey) born in Louth in 1849 and died in 1930. They were married in Chorlton, Lancashire in 1873.

Their other children were; Fred, born in 1875, Herbert, born in 1877 and died in 1879, Henry James, born in 1879, Florence Fanny, born in 1880 and died in 1881, Walter, born in 1881 and died in 1882 Annie Elizabeth, born in 1883 and Edith, born in 1886.

On the 1881 Census the family were living at 7, Boston Road, Old Sleaford, Lincolnshire, in 1891 George was registered as a patient at the South Hospital, Crowtree Lane, Louth but his family have not been found for this Census, in 1901 they are recorded at 17, Gospelgate, Louth.

George was married in Louth in 1903 to Ethel Elvin (born in 1883 and died in 1913). They had three children, all born in Dewsbury: Alice, born in 1904, Maud, born in 1905 and John Elvin, born in 1909. According to the 1911 Census, the family lived at 50, Back Brook Street, Dewsbury. When he enlisted, his children were living with his mother Mary Jane at 80, Town Green, Earlsheaton. The *Dewsbury District News* on 25th September 1915 when reporting his death, stated that his children would be cared for by his bereaved mother. Prior to enlisting, George was working as a Dyer's Labourer at Messrs Hemingway and Bindschadler, Church Street, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in February 1915 serving as Private 21733 in the 6th Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in action in Flanders on 7th September 1915 and was buried in Ypres Reservoir North Cemetery; in 1921 he was reburied in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. George received the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

From October 1914 to the autumn of 1918, Ypres (now Ieper) was at the centre of a salient held by Commonwealth (and for some months by French) forces. From April 1915, it was bombarded and destroyed more completely than any other town of its size on the Western Front, but even so certain buildings remained distinguishable. The ruins of the cathedral and the cloth hall stood together in the middle of the city, part of the infantry barracks stood in an angle of the south walls and the prison, reservoir and water tower were together at the western gate. Three cemeteries were made near the western gate: two between the prison and the reservoir, both now removed into the third, and the third on the north side of the prison. The third was called at first the "Cemetery North of the Prison," later "Ypres Reservoir North Cemetery, and now Ypres Reservoir Cemetery. This cemetery was begun in October 1915 and used by fighting units and field ambulances until after the Armistice, when it contained 1,099 graves. The cemetery was later enlarged when graves were brought in from the battlefields of the salient and smaller burial grounds. There are now 2,613 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 1,034 of the burials are unidentified.

George 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 War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of

Private

G A Taylor

21733, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 07 September 1915

Remembered with Honour
Ypres Reservoir Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.