



William Richardson

1891 – 1915

William was born in Dewsbury on 9th July 1891 and baptised 20th August 1891 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. His father was John Richardson, a Hawker and Hardware Van Man born in Leeds in 1859 and died in 1929. His mother was Ann (nee Callaghan) born in Liverpool in 1863 and died in 1934. They were married at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 10th August 1884.

Their other children were; Maud Ethel, born in Dewsbury in 1885 and died in 1887 and Amy, born in Newark, Nottinghamshire in 1900. On the 1911 Census they state four children born to the marriage, of which two have died but only one has been found.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 5, Upper Peel Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Tolney Lane, Newark, in 1911 at 33, Wood Street, Newark and later at 26, Balderstone Gate, Newark.

William was a single man whose parents had moved to Newark when he was nine years old. He attended Christ Church School and afterwards worked at Mr. E. Castle's coachbuilding works in Castlegate. He was later employed at Mr. George Walker's foundry where in 1911 he is recorded as an Iron Moulder. He was a Sunday school teacher at Lombard Street Congregational Church in Newark. The Dewsbury Reporter on 3rd July 1915 contained a report which told of his death; it stated that "*he was highly respected in Newark, where he was a Sunday school teacher.*"

He attested into 8th Battalion Notts and Derby Regiment (Territorials) around 1909, later resigning. He re-enlisted on 14th September 1914 serving as Private 2460 in the 1st/8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front on 2nd March 1915. He was killed in action by an exploding mine in Belgian Flanders on 15th June 1915 and was buried in Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, Belgium. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery is located 8 Kms south of Ieper (Ypres). Kemmel Chateau was north-east of Kemmel village and the cemetery was established on the north side of the chateau grounds in December 1914. It continued to be used by divisions fighting on the southern sectors of the Belgian front until March 1918, when after fierce fighting involving both Commonwealth and French forces, the village and cemetery fell into German hands in late April. The cemetery was retaken later in the year, but in the interval it was badly shelled and the old chateau destroyed. There are now 1,135 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

William 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 Newark War Memorial.

In Memory of
Private
William Richardson

2460, 1st/8th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 15 June 1915 Age 23

Son of John and Ann Richardson, of 26, Balderton Gate, Newark.

Remembered with Honour
Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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