



Gilbert Nowell

1896 – 1915

Gilbert was born in Earlsheaton on 16th February 1896 and was baptised at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 1st April 1896. His father was George Nowell, a Wool Washer in a mill born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1945. His mother was Martha Anne (nee Swift) born in Netherton, Huddersfield in 1873 and died in 1954. They were married at St. Peter's Church on 6th November 1892

Their other children were; Jane, born in 1892 and died in 1893, Nellie, born in 1898, Eva, born in 1902 and Ada, born in 1909 and died in 1912.

On the 1901 Census, the family lived at 13, Kiln Road, Dewsbury, in 1911 at Firths Buildings, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and later at 37, Battye Street, Eastborough, Dewsbury, then 17, Back Ridgway Street, Dewsbury.

Gilbert was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School and was attached to the Church; he was also a member of Leeds Road Boy's Club. He worked as a Cloth Cutter for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons at Calder Mill.

He enlisted into the 1st/4th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 2059 and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He died on 20th December 1915 from gas poisoning sustained in action at Boesinghe near Ypres and was buried in Hospital Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Gilbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. According to the Battalion's war diary for 19th December, a gas attack occurred, in which one officer and 23 other ranks died of gas poisoning; in addition 17 men were killed in action and another died of his wounds.

His mother received a letter from a Chaplain, the Rev. J. Sydney Hobson, which began: *"I am more sorry that I can say to have bad news for you this Christmas time. Your son Gilbert was collected by the field ambulance on Sunday suffering from the effects of gas poisoning, and he passed peacefully away to his reward before he could be sent to the casualty clearing station"*.

Hospital Farm Cemetery is located 6.5 km west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre on the Hospitaalstraat, a road leading from the main road connecting Ieper to Poperinge. Hospital Farm was the name given to a farm building used as a dressing station. The cemetery was used particularly in 1915 and in 1917 by regiments and batteries engaged in the fighting around Ypres. The cemetery contains 115 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Gilbert 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 from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road now displayed in Dewsbury Minister.

In Memory of
Private
G Nowell

2059, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 December 1915 Age 19

Son of George and Martha Ann Nowell, of 17, Back Ridgway St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Hospital Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

