



Wilfred Rayner

1890 – 1915

Wilfred was born in Attercliffe, Sheffield in 1890 and was baptised at Christ Church, Attercliffe on 22nd October 1890. His father was Joseph Rayner, a Chemical Rectifier born in Attercliffe in 1871 and died in 1936. His mother was Jane Elizabeth (nee Hodgson) born in North Ferriby near Hull in 1867 and died in 1961. They were married in Sheffield in 1889.

Their other children were; Lionel, born in Sheffield in 1889 and died from the effects of Mustard Gas on 24th July 1917, Daisy, born in Sheffield in 1892 and died in 1901, Joseph, born in Sheffield in 1894 and died in 1899, Olive, born in Sheffield in 1897 and died in 1899, Percy, born in Sheffield in 1899, Charles, born in Sheffield in 1901, John, born in Dewsbury in 1906, Phyllis, born in Dewsbury in 1908 and Frank, born in Dewsbury in 1911.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 12, Washford Road, Attercliffe, in 1901 at 45, Copster Road, Darnall, Sheffield, in 1911 at 3, Blenheim Place, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury and later at 49, Back Whitely Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Wilfred was a single man whose occupation was an Iron Puddler in a foundry.

He had served in the territorial's prior to the outbreak of war and attested in Dewsbury into the 1st/4th Battalion of King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 2216; he was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915 and was killed in action on 30th November 1915 whilst in a working party. He is buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Wilfred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Reports of his death appeared in the Dewsbury District News and the Dewsbury Reporter on 11th December 1915. At the time, his brother Lionel was at home on leave, having been wounded.

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, and the cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49th (West Riding), the 38th (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 39 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate three casualties known to be buried among them.

Wilfred is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Wilf Raynor* on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Private
Wilfred Rayner

2216, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 30 November 1915 Age 25

Son of Jane E. Rayner, of 53, Whitley St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Bard Cottage Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

