



Patrick Edward Phillips 1888 – 1914

Patrick was born on 5th April 1888 at 21, Granville Street, Runcorn, Cheshire. His father was Thomas Phillips, a Chemical Worker and sometime Coal Dealer born in 1847 and died in 1905. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Blackman) born in 1852 and died in 1892. They were married in 1869.

Their other children were; James, born in Runcorn in 1871 and died in 1871, Mary Ellen, born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1873, Thomas, born in County Wicklow in 1877, William John, born in County Wicklow in 1880 and died in 1880, Agnes Anne, born in County Wicklow in 1882, James, born in Runcorn in 1884 and was killed in action on 26th August 1914, Josephine, born in Runcorn in 1890 and died in 1895.

Thomas Snr was remarried in the second quarter of 1894 to a widow, Sarah Boyling, nee Brady (born in Salford in 1858 and died in 1915) they had a daughter, May, born in 1902; Sarah had three children to her first marriage to George Boyling (born in 1858 and died in 1885*) Florence, born in 1883, George Nicholas, born in 1885 and Winifred born in 1892* so her father was likely to have been Thomas Phillips Snr.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 30, Hoffman Street, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield.

On 10th April 1900 Patrick appeared before a Magistrate's Court for the offence of been "*uncontrollable*", he had run away from home on two previous occasions and the magistrates noted the following; "*Parents respectable people. Boy does not like his Stepmother*". He was sentenced to be sent to a place of correction until he attained the age of 16.

The 1901 census lists Patrick Edward Phillips, then aged twelve, as being resident at The Good Shepherd Industrial School for Roman Catholic Boys at Shibden in Halifax. One of the chief aims of the school was to correct the behaviour of boys aged six to fourteen years who were referred to it by various authorities; in this regard it had an excellent reputation, and a number of the boys, having learned a practical skill at the School, were then relocated to Canada, where careful supervision was given with regard to their well-being. The Superintendent of the Industrial School, Father Thomas Worthy, made several trips to Canada to ensure that the former scholars of Shibden were doing well.

He enlisted in the York and Lancaster Regiment in Sheffield in December 1905 but was discharged in the following January 1906. He then enlisted in the Leinster Regiment in Halifax as Private 8195 Edward Phillips, omitting his first Christian name. He saw service in India with the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment and died of sickness en-route to France where the regiment was due to take up duties at the Front. He was taken ill on board ship and died at Suez on 6th December 1914 and was buried at Suez War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Patrick was awarded the British War Medal.

The Dewsbury Reporter gave his home address as 17, New Street, Westtown, Dewsbury. He had been employed by Mr. Wakefield, chemical manufacturer of Savile Town, along with his two brothers.

Patrick 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Private
E Phillips

8195, 1st Bn., Leinster Regiment who died on 06 December 1914

Remembered with Honour
Suez War Memorial Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ralph McLean, Manitoba, Canada.