



Lee Bedford

1892 - 1917

Lee was born in Dewsbury on 10th May 1892. His father was Henry Bedford, a Clog Maker born in Alverthorpe, Wakefield in 1843 and died in 1896. His mother was Sarah (nee Outhwaite) born in Goole, Yorkshire in 1854 and died in 1916. They were married in Christ Church, Doncaster on 28th January 1872.

Their other children were; Charlotte, born in 1873 and died in 1891, Wentworth, born in 1874 and died in 1909, Emmeline, born in 1878, Maria, born in 1880, Horace, born in 1883 and John, born in 1886.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Wilman Street, Dewsbury, in 1891 at Wheelwright Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 at 11, Stonefield Street, Dewsbury. In 1911 Lee was living with his widowed mother at 10, Wheelwright Street, Dewsbury where they had their shop. She later lived at 19, Newsome Place, Batley Carr.

Lee was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School and worked as an assistant to his widowed mother in the Family Clog Making business. He emigrated to Canada on the SS "Corsican" which departed from Liverpool on 7th March 1912 bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. He worked as a farmer.

He attested on 11th September 1915 at Guelph, Ontario, Canada serving as Private 126422, firstly in the 71st and from 3rd June 1916 in the 54th Battalion (British Columbia Regiment) Canadian Expeditionary Force. His Battalion arrived in Liverpool on 11th April 1916 and he was sent to the Western Front on 13th August 1916. He received gunshot wounds to the right forearm and left leg in November 1916 and was hospitalised at Le Treport on the French coast. He was killed in action by shellfire near Givenchy-en-Gohelle in France on 1st March 1917 during a raid on enemy trenches on Vimy Ridge. His remains were never recovered for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial. Lee was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and the Canadian Silver Memorial Cross (Mothers Medal).

His medals were sent to his brother Horace at 36, Wellington Road, Dewsbury and his Soldiers Effects and pay entitlement to his sister Emmeline (now Mrs. Fred Peace) of Carr Street, Batley Carr.

The Vimy Memorial overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge. Located north of Arras in France, the Vimy Memorial is Canada's largest overseas National Memorial. It commemorates more than 11,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed during the First World War in France and who have no known grave.

Lee is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Canadian Roll of Honour, Parliament Hill, Ottawa and on the War Memorial in Guelph Woodlawn Memorial Park.

In Memory of

Private

Lee Bedford

126422, 54th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 01 March 1917 Age 23

Son of the late Henry and Sarah Bedford.

Remembered with Honour

Vimy Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

L-BEDFORD