



Herbert James Fletcher

1898-1918

Herbert was born in Dewsbury on 26th November 1898 and baptised at Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Methodist Church on 24th January 1899. His father was James Fletcher, a Managing Director of a Letterpress and Bookbinding company born in Batley in 1869 and died in 1960. His mother was Mary Alice (nee Pickup) born in Rawtenstall, Lancashire in 1866 and died in 1942. They were married in Rawtenstall in 1895.

They had another son, Stanley Pickup, born in 1897 and was killed in action on 1st July 1916, the First Day of the Battle of the Somme.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Moorlands Avenue, Dewsbury, in 1911 at “Elmroyd,” Bath Street, Dewsbury and later at “Saxonholme” West Park Street, Dewsbury.

Herbert was educated at Batley Grammar School and was employed as a Clerk at the National Provincial and Union Bank of England.

He enlisted in 1917 in Dewsbury into the 11th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry with the Service Number 77297 later transferring into the 12th Battalion, then the 1st/5th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment serving as Private 34839. He was posted as missing near Trelon in Northern France on 26th May 1918 and died as a Prisoner of War on 30th August 1918. He was buried by the enemy in Glageon Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The village of Glageon is about 3 kilometres west of Trelon, 11 kilometres south-east of Avesnes and 56 kilometres east of Cambrai. The Communal Cemetery and Extension lie west of the village. Glageon village was in German occupation during practically the whole of the War. The Communal Cemetery was used for the burial of German soldiers and Allied prisoners from September 1914 to August 1918; the Extension was then begun, and was used until the following October. The German, American and Italian and a number of French graves have now been removed from both burial grounds; but the British and Russian graves remain. There are now over 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 10 are unidentified.

Herbert 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 Plaque in Batley Grammar School to fallen pupils and as *H. Fletcher* on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Methodist Church on Daisy Hill.

In Memory of

Private

Herbert James Fletcher

34839, 1st/5th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 30 August 1918

Remembered with Honour

Glageon Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

