



Wilfred Talbot

1882 - 1917

Wilfred was born in Dewsbury in 1882. His father was Edwin Talbot, a stonemason born in Bishop Auckland, County Durham in 1855 and died in 1892. His mother was Isabella (nee Soothill) born in Shelf, near Halifax in 1855 and died in 1945. They were married in a non-conformist church on 2nd October 1875.

Their other children were; John Edwin, born in 1876 and Mary Ethel, born in 1885.

In 1891 they are living at the home of Isabella's father John Soothill (born in 1823 and died in 1911) at 7, Springfield Street, Dewsbury. Isabella was still living there in 1939.

Wilfred was educated at Carlton Road School and had a lifetime connection with Trinity Congregational Church where he was a hard worker and sung in the choir. He was head book-keeper with Messrs John Walker and Sons of Dewsbury, potato merchants and wholesale fruiterers for whom he had worked for over 17 years. He was married in 1907 to Sarah Elizabeth Barker (born in 1882 and died in 1982 aged 100). They lived at 134, Bromley Street, Hanging Heaton, Batley and had two children; Arthur, born in 1908 and Leonard, born in 1912. Sarah was still living there in 1939 with Leonard.

He enlisted in July 1916 into the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 33958 and was sent to the Western Front in November 1916. He was wounded in France in July 1917 and was killed in action on 23rd November 1917 in the aftermath of the Battle of Passchendaele, his remains were found in February 1920 and he is now buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Wilfred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Tyne Cot Cemetery is located 9 Kms north-east of Ieper town centre, on the Tynecotstraat, a road leading from the Zonnebeekseweg. It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. There are now 11,961 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery. 8,373 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to more than 80 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 20 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Wilfred is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Library and on the Memorial Plaque in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist).

In Memory of

Private

W Talbot

33958, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 23 November 1917 Age 35

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.