



Willie Beaumont

1889 - 1917

Willie was born in Crackenedge, Dewsbury on 20th June 1889. His father was Mellor Beaumont, a Cloth Dyer born in Huddersfield in 1852 and died in 1905. His mother was Mary (nee Smith) born in Methley near Leeds in 1851 and died in 1920. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 25th December 1872.

Their other children were; Smith, born in 1873, Ada, born in 1875, Harry, born in 1881 and died in 1881, Florrie, born in 1887 and Lena, born in 1894.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 22, Carlton Road, Dewsbury.

Willie was educated at Carlton Road School and attended the Salem United Methodist Church and Sunday school in Northgate, Dewsbury. He worked as a Cloth Dyer for 5 years with Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons and then as a Warehouseman with Messrs P. Doble and Company of Ravensthorpe. He went to live and work in Bolton, Lancashire where he was married in 1915 to Elsie Annie Holroyd (born in Burnley in 1888 and died in 1920); they had a son, Kenneth, born in 1915. Elsie was remarried in 1919 to Albert Edward Stallard (born in 1896 and died in 1957) but died a year later. They had a daughter, Elsie born in 1920. Kenneth was later cared for by his mother's sister, Mrs. Gertrude Elizabeth Hayes.

He had been a Territorial for four years in Dewsbury and enlisted in the 1st/4th Battalion of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment with the Service Number 265280 rising to the rank of Corporal. He was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele at the Menin Road Ridge near Ypres on 20th September 1917. The Regimental War Diary records that a great many casualties were inflicted by enemy machine guns. He was buried in the field, but in August 1919 his remains were reburied in Tyne Cot Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Willie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

It is thought that he may have been an Acting Serjeant as the comments from his officer in the Dewsbury Reporter refer to him as Sjt. Beaumont and this rank is recorded in his entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour.

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.

Willie 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 Memorial Plaque from the Salem United Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of
Corporal
W Beaumont

265280, 1st/4th Bn., The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment who died on 20 September 1917

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.