



Gilbert Lightfoot

1891-1918

Gilbert was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was William Lightfoot, a Teamer born in Knottingley, Yorkshire in 1865 and died in 1939. His mother was Emma (nee Kilburn) born in Dewsbury in 1864 and died in 1921. They were married in Dewsbury in 1887.

Their other children were; Eli, born in 1887, Mark Kilburn, born in 1889, Percy, born in 1898 and died in 1900, Amy, born in 1894 and Nellie, born in 1906.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family were living with Emma's family at 7, Hartley Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 they have their own residence at 6, Cossham Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

Gilbert was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Lifter for a Railway Company. He was educated at Carlton Street Council School and attended Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church where played for the football team. Prior to enlistment he was employed at the Yorkshire Hide and Skin Company, Mill Road, Batley Carr.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1915 serving as Gunner, later Signaller 801928 in "C" Battery, 155th Brigade Royal Field Artillery and was sent to the Western Front in December that same year. He was invalided home with wounds in early 1917 and did not return to the front until December. He died of wounds and gas poisoning on 23rd September 1918 in a hospital near Boulogne, France and was buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas-de-Calais, France. Gilbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Terlincthun British Cemetery is situated on the northern outskirts of Boulogne. The first rest camps for Commonwealth forces were established near Terlincthun in August 1914 and during the whole of the First World War, Boulogne and Wimereux housed numerous hospitals and other medical establishments. The cemetery at Terlincthun was begun in June 1918 when the space available for service burials in the civil cemeteries of Boulogne and Wimereux was exhausted. It was used chiefly for burials from the base hospitals. In July 1920, the cemetery contained more than 3,300 burials, but for many years Terlincthun remained an 'open' cemetery and graves continued to be brought into it from isolated sites and other burials grounds throughout France where maintenance could not be assured. The cemetery now contains 4,378 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Gilbert 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 Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Signaller

Gilbert Lightfoot

801928, "C" Bty. 155th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 23 September 1918 Age 27

Son of William and Emma Lightfoot, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.