



Reuben Turton Haley

1887-1918

Reuben was born in Dewsbury on 17th November 1887. His father was Hanson Haley, a Cloth Finisher and later an Insurance Agent born in Dewsbury in 1853 and died in 1917. His mother was Ellen (nee Turton) born in Hirst Courtney near Selby, Yorkshire in 1856 and died in 1928. They were married on 4th December 1875 at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Thomas Alfred (I), born in 1876 and died in 1876, Thomas Alfred (II), born in 1878, Mary Ann Gertrude, born in 1880 and died in 1881, Gertrude, born in 1883, Lily, born in 1885 and died in 1906, John Arthur, born in 1892 and Harry, born in 1893 and served in World War 1.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Thornhill Road, Dewsbury, in 1891 at Mill Street, Norton near Malton, Yorkshire, in 1901 at 32, Woodbine Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 42a, Wellington Road, Dewsbury and later at 156, Ash Villa, Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton.

Reuben was a single man who was educated at Westtown Church of England School and worked as a Drayman at a Cotton Mill; he was engaged to be married to Miss Florrie Oates of West Vale, Dewsbury.

He was accepted for Home Service on 16th February 1916 in the York and Lancaster Regiment with the Service Number 22540; in March of that same year he enlisted as Private 20829 in the 12th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and after two and a half weeks was sent to the Western Front. He was transferred to the 24th Company of the Labour Corps with the Service Number 14030 in which he was serving at the time of his death. He was slightly gassed in 1917 and his only home leave came in October 1917. He was killed in action in France on 15th August 1918 when a bomb exploded close beside him, seriously wounding him and he died in a few minutes. He was buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France. Reuben was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Puchevillers is a village about 19 kilometres north-east of Amiens. In June 1916, just before the opening of the Battles of the Somme, the 3rd and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations came to the village and burials were made by those hospitals before the end of March 1917. The graves of men who died in the German advance in 1918 were buried by the 49th Clearing Station in March 1918 or by the 48th Labour Group in August. Puchevillers British Cemetery contains 1,763 First World War burials.

Reuben is commemorated as *Reuben Haley* on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *R.T. Haley* on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church Earlsheaton and on the War Memorial in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown.

In Memory of

Private

Reuben Turton Haley

20829, 12th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 15 August 1918 Age 30

Son of the late Hanson and Ellen Haley, of 156, Ash Villa, Wakefield Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks. Native of Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Puchevillers British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

