



Charles Frederick Astin

1899-1918

Charles was born in Hapton, Lancashire on 31st December 1899. His father was Miles Whitham Astin, a vitriol recycling chemical labourer born in Hapton in 1865 and died in 1930. His mother was Martha Alice (nee Pickles) born in Padiham, Lancashire in 1869 and died in 1904. They were married in 1896.

Their other children were; Samuel Boden, born in Nelson, Lancashire in 1897, John Christopher, born in Nelson in 1899 and died in 1915 and Mary Ellen, born in Hapton in 1901.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 33, Bridgefield Street, Hapton, in 1911 Miles is recorded as a widower living with his three sons at Back Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe, Mary Ellen is living with her widowed maternal grandmother and family at 232, Leeds Road, Nelson.

Miles was remarried in 1915 to Harriett Taylor (born in 1865 and died in 1929). They lived at 74, Queen Street, Ravensthorpe.

Charles was a single man who was educated at St. Saviours Day School in Ravensthorpe and worked as a Piecener/Piecer in the woollen mills of Messrs R. Swire and Sons.

He enlisted in February 1918 serving as Private 62945 in the 5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in July that same year. He was killed in action near Vaulx-Vraucourt, France on 2nd September 1918 and was buried in the field; in 1920 his remains were reburied in Vaulx Hill Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His father had received a letter from him written just before he was killed, asking for some cigarettes to be sent to him. Miles had just purchased these and was just preparing to send them when he was informed of Charles's death.

Vaulx-Vraucourt is a village 6 kilometres north-east of Bapaume. It was taken in the spring of 1917, lost (after severe fighting) in March 1918, and retaken in the following September. Vaulx Hill Cemetery started with just 17 graves of September 1918. The rest of the cemetery was formed after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields in the immediate neighbourhood and other smaller cemeteries. The cemetery now contains 856 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 258 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate 29 casualties known or believed to be buried among them, and four others buried in other cemeteries whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Charles is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Charles Frederick Astin

62945, 5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 02 September 1918 Age 18

Son of Miles Whitham Astin and Martha Alice Astin, of 74, Queen St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.
Born at Hapton, Lancs.

Remembered with Honour

Vaulx Hill Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

