

## George Herbert (Bert) Fawcett 1883-1918

George Herbert was born in Dewsbury on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1883, he was known as Bert or Bertie by friends and family. His father was also George Fawcett, a self-employed Slater born in Castleton near Rochdale in 1851 and died in 1917. His mother was Mabeth Senior (nee Wood) born in Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire, Scotland in 1853 and died in 1933. They were married in All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1875.

Their other children were; John, born in 1876, William Edward, born in 1879 and Elsie Evelyn, born in 1893.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at 5, Sharp Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 14, Battye Street, Dewsbury.

George Herbert was educated at Eastborough Council School and Dewsbury Parish Church Day School and Sunday school and was also attached to Dewsbury Baptist Church Sunday school and was a member of Eastborough Working Man's Club. He worked as a Roof Slater for both his father and later for Mr. Harry Brear. He was married at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1918 to Eveline Illingworth (born in 1890 and died in 1956) they lived at 18, Sheep Hill, Earlsheaton and did not have any children.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1916 and became a Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the Service Number K/38574 and served for 18 months aboard HMS "Duke of Edinburgh" which was engaged in convoy escort duties to Canada and the USA. On 10<sup>th</sup> September 1918 he was transferred to HMS "Newark" but after only three weeks he was taken ill with lung problems and confined to the Royal Naval Hospital at Larbert, near Falkirk, Scotland where he died on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1918; he was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. George Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

George Herbert 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 War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the Plaque from Dewsbury Parish Church School and as *George Fawcett* on the Plaque in Eastborough School to fallen pupils.



