



Ernest Crowther

1893-1918

Ernest was born in Morley on 28th June, 1893 and baptised on 24th January 1894 at Morley Mission Hall. His father was George Rowland Crowther, a Congregational Minister, born in Huddersfield in 1844 and died in 1926. His mother was Mary (nee Fawell), born in Hauxwell near Leyburn, Yorkshire in 1853 and died in 1925. They were married in 1877; the marriage was registered at Ripon.

Their other children were; Rowland, born in Leeds in 1878, and died in 1881, Frances Elizabeth/Fanny, born in Selby in 1880, Fred, born in Dewsbury in 1883 and died in 1888, George Herbert, born in Dewsbury in 1885, Louisa, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Horace, born in 1889 and Lewis, born in 1897 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 15, Brunswick Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 42, Gillroyd Parade, Morley, in 1911 at Streethouse, Pontefract and later at 66, East View, Chapel Fold, Staincliffe, Batley.

George was previously married in 1868 to Jane l'anson (born in Leeds in 1844 and died in 1876) they had two daughters; Charlotte Annie, born in 1869 and Jessie, born in 1871.

Ernest was a single man who was employed as a Clerk in the Land Survey Department at Doncaster.

He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in May 1915 with the Service Number 99149 and was soon promoted to Serjeant; he was sent to the Western Front on 2nd June 1916 where he served for 18 months before returning home to prepare for a commission which he achieved in February 1918. He returned to the front in August as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 92nd Field Company and was killed in action in France near Le Cateau on 25th October 1918 and was buried in Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Le Cateau is a small town approximately 27 kilometres east-south-east of Cambrai. The town remained in German hands from 26th August 1914 until the evening of 10th October 1918, when it was captured by the 5th Connaught Rangers and finally cleared a week later. During the war Le Cateau had been a German railhead and the site of an important hospital centre. Le Cateau Military Cemetery was laid out by the Germans in February 1916 with separate plots for the Commonwealth and German dead. The Commonwealth plot is the site of almost 700 graves and commemorations of the First World War.

Ernest 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 in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist).

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant
Ernest Crowther

92nd Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 25 October 1918 Age 25

Born at Morley. Son of George Rowland Crowther and Mary Crowther, of 66, East View, Chapel Fold,
Staincliffe, Batley, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Le Cateau Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the “In Memory” Website of Pierre Vandervelden.