



## **Morris (Maurice) Sewell**

### **1900-1918**

Morris was born on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1900 at High Lane, Cheshire. His father was John Thomas Sewell, a Railway Labourer born in Grantham, Lincolnshire in 1855. His mother was Charlotte (nee Buckby) born in Preston, Rutland in 1855 and died in 1901. They were married at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Preston in 1879.

Their other children were; Fanny, born in Preston in 1880, Constance Murial, born in Sheffield in 1882, Mary Ann, born in Sheffield in 1884, George Morris, born in Sheffield in 1886, Jack, born in Runcorn, Cheshire in 1890, Rose Hannah, born in South Witham, Lincolnshire in 1892, Hannah, born in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire in 1894 and Mabel Irene, born in Rugby, Warwickshire in 1897.

In 1891 the family were living at High Street, South Witham, in 1901 at Threaphurst Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport; John is recorded as "away".

In 1911 Morris was living with his sister Fanny (now Mrs. George Hoffland) at Hirwaun, Glamorgan, Wales. She and her husband were in charge of one of a number of hostels for labourers who were building a reservoir for Rhondda Urban District Council. He later moved to live at 2, Croft Street, Dewsbury with his sister Mary Ann (now Mrs. John Arnett). Morris was a single man who worked as a hurrier in one of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton's coal mines. His Soldiers Effects monies were left to his sister Mabel (Now Mrs. John William Byram).

He enlisted in 1915 before his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday and was serving on the Western Front when his sister Mary Ann sent his birth certificate to the authorities in 1916 and he was returned home. He re-enlisted on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1918 at Pontefract and was posted to the East Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 38815, almost immediately he was transferred to the Durham Light Infantry, Service Number 28668 and finally, just before being posted to the front, to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 35021. He died of wounds in No. 43 Casualty Clearing Station at Beaulencourt, France on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1918 having being accidentally shot in the lung by a member of his battalion whilst resting during a march two days earlier. He was buried in Thillooy Road Cemetery, Beaulencourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Morris was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Beaulencourt is a village 3km south-east of Bapaume on the road to Péronne. The cemetery was begun by the 53<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance early in September 1918, and used during the latter part of the month and the early part of October by the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations. Thillooy Road Cemetery contains 240 burials from World War I.

Morris is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and as *Maurice Sewell* in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

**M Sewell**

35021, 9th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 28 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Thillooy Road Cemetery, Beaulencourt**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.