



Charlie Smith

1895-1918

Charlie was born in Dewsbury Moor on 28th May 1895. His father was Thomas Smith, a farmer born in Dewsbury in 1851 and died in 1919. His mother was Mary (nee Hornsby) born in Horbury in 1853 and died in 1910. They were married at St. Peter and St. Leonard's Church, Horbury on 25th March 1876.

Their other children were; Robert William, born in 1876 and died in 1881, Mary Ann, born in 1878 and died in 1879, Thomas Herbert, born in 1879, Edward, born in 1882, John William, born in 1884 and died in 1885, Clifford, born in 1888, Frank, born in 1890 and Harry, born in 1893 and died in 1894.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 64, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury Moor, in 1911 at Squirrel Hall Farm, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury and later at Cawley Hill Farm, off Kilpin Hill, Heckmondwike.

Charlie was a single man who worked on his father's farm along with his three youngest brothers. All the family were connected to St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the West Yorkshire Regiment as Charles Smith with the Service Number 75852 and was later transferred to the 11th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment serving as Private 51959. He was killed in action on the French/Belgian border in Flanders on 28th September 1918. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Charlie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On 25th September 1918 the Battalion were in the trench system just outside Armentieres, which had been in German hands since April 1918. Most of the Battalion moved back to the front lines to support an attack by the 10th East Yorkshire's (the Hull Commercial's) and the 11th East Lancashire's (the Accrington Pals) in an attack on Ploegsteert Wood which was launched on 28th September. The Germans withdrew from Ploegsteert Wood later that night and Armentieres was retaken by the Allies on 29th September.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

The fact that he was killed in the Ploegsteert/Armentieres area poses a question; most men who fell in this area who have no known grave are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial to the missing. It is not known why he is named on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Charlie is also 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

Charles Smith

51959, 11th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 28 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

