



Edward Dunlavey

1888?-1918

Edward was allegedly born in Bradford around 1888 but no birth record has been found for him. His mother was Bridget Dunlavey, a Hawker born in Leeds around 1860 and died in Dewsbury in 1931. She had another son, William, birth registered in Leeds in 1884.

On the 1891 Census Records, Edward and his brother William are inmates in the Bradford Union Workhouse; their mother Bridget is registered as a Convict in Knaphill Female Prison near Woking, Surrey. On the 1901 Census Records, Bridget is a Convict in Aylesbury Female Prison in Buckinghamshire, no record of Edward and William can be found. On the 1911 Census, Bridget is living as a boarder at 11, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Edward worked as a Dyer's Labourer and later as a By-Worker for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton at Shaw Cross Colliery, Dewsbury. On 31st January 1909 he was married at Dewsbury Register Office to Martha Ellen Smith (born in Batley in 1886 and died in 1954) they lived at 4, Back Dale Street, Batley and had a daughter, Jane Elizabeth, born in 1910 and died in 1911. They had a wedding ceremony at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 24th October 1911. Martha was remarried in 1920 to George Henry Hoult (born in 1884 and died in 1935); she remarried again in 1936 to a John Cox (born in 1884 and died in 1962).

He enlisted in 1914 serving as Private 15682 in the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 26th August 1915; he was wounded on four separate occasions, gassed three times and hospitalised on two occasions. Having written home to his wife on 17th June 1918 saying he was "*all right and well*" he was killed in action in France on 20th July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Edward was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. Here, at the end of May 1918 the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Edward 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church (as Edward *Dunleavy*) and on the Memorial Plaque in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton to employees of Crawshaw and Warburton who gave their lives in the service of their country during the Great War.

In Memory of

Private

Edward Dunlavey

15682, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 July 1918 Age 28

Son of Mrs. Bridget Dunlavey; husband of Martha Ellen Hoult (formerly Dunlavey), of 8, South Woodbine St., Flatts, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

