



Fred Crabtree

1890-1918

Fred was born in Dewsbury on 2nd July 1890. His father was William Crabtree, a Postman born in Dewsbury in 1851 and died in 1927. His mother was Georgiana (nee Dixon) born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1917. They were married on 9th March 1872 at St. Marks Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Emily, born in 1873, Joseph Arthur, born in 1874, George William, born in 1876, Herbert, born in 1878, Watson, born in 1880 and died in 1882, Maud, born in 1882, Albert, born in 1884 and served in World War 1, Ethel, born in 1886, Florrie, born in 1888, Minnie, born in 1892 and died in 1893, Clarence, born in 1894 and Charles Dixon, born in 1898 and was killed in action on 31st August 1918.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 4, Woodbine Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at Whitley Street, Dewsbury and later at Springfield House, Willans Road, Dewsbury.

Fred was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and was a Chorister at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown and was later associated with St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. He worked as a Painter and Paperhanger for Mr. E. Adshead, Dewsbury and was married to Ethel Child (born in 1891 and died in 1918) on 17th December 1910 at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen; they had two daughters, Phyllis, born in 1911 and died in 1911 and Ethel Joan, born in 1918. In 1911 they lived with his wife's family at 14, George Street, Dewsbury Moor.

He enlisted in 1916 serving as Private 30755 in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; he was hospitalised for 8 months suffering from Neuritis, an inflammation of the nervous system. His wife Ethel had died on 16th June 1918, 11 days after giving birth to their second daughter and less than 2 months before Fred died. He was killed in action in France on 11th August 1918 during the Battle of Amiens, he was buried in the field and in 1920 his remains were moved to Bouchoir New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bouchoir is a village on the straight main road from Amiens to Roye. The village passed into German hands on 27th March 1918 but was recovered by the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade on 9th August 1918. The New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought there from small Commonwealth cemeteries and from the battlefields round Bouchoir. Almost all date from March, April or August 1918 and the cemetery now contains 763 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 231 of which are unidentified.

Fred 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

Fred Crabtree

30755, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 11 August 1918 Age 26

Son of William Crabtree, of Springfield House, Willans Rd., Dewsbury; husband of the late Ethel Crabtree, of George St., Dewsbury Moor, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Bouchoir New British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

