



Willie Bennett

1886 – 1916

Willie was born at 10, Nowell's Yard, Dewsbury on 22nd February 1886. His father was George Bennett, a Stonemason born in Dalton, Huddersfield in 1854 and died in 1896. His mother was Emma (née Stubley) born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1929. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 15th May 1876.

Their other children who have been found were; Albert, born in 1877, George Arthur, born in 1879, Benjamin, born in 1882 and served in World War 1, Edmund, born in 1884 and served in the Canadian Infantry in World War 1, Harry, born in 1888 and died in 1889, Ethel, born in 1895 and Fred, born in 1896 and died in 1897. On the 1911 Census, Emma declares there were ten children born to the marriage of which four had died.

On the 1891 Census the family were still living at Nowell's Yard and in 1901 and 1911 at 18, Whitehead's Buildings, Fall Lane, Dewsbury.

Willie worked as a Cloth Finisher for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons in Dewsbury and later at Messrs George Harrop and Sons, Albion Mills, Horbury Bridge. He was married on 23rd July 1910 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury to Cecilia Grainger (birth name registered as Selina, born in Wakefield in 1881 and died in 1968). They had three sons; Edmund, born in Dewsbury in 1911, Stephen, born in Horbury in 1914 and Ronald Austin, born in Horbury in 1915. In 1911 they lived at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe and later at 16, Cross Park Street, Horbury near Wakefield.

He enlisted in October 1914 serving as Private 3736 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 25th December 1915. According to newspaper reports he had been wounded four times before being badly wounded at Thiepval on 6th July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He died two days later on 8th July in the 76th Field Ambulance at Warloy-Baillon and was buried in Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Willie was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Warloy-Baillon is a village about 21 kilometres north-east of Amiens. The Communal Cemetery is on the east side of the village and the extension is on the eastern side of the cemetery. By 1st July 1916 field ambulances had come to the village in readiness for the attack on the German front line eight kilometres away, and the extension was begun on the eastern side of the cemetery. The extension contains 1,331 First World War Commonwealth burials.

Willie 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 porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown and on the Horbury War Memorial and on the Memorial Plaque in St. Ignatius Church, Ossett.

In Memory of

Private

Willie Bennett

3736, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 July 1916 Age 30

Husband of Cecilia Bennett, of 16, Cross Park St., Horbury, nr. Wakefield.

Remembered with Honour

Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

