



Herbert Gillard

1896-1918

Herbert was born in Dewsbury in 1896. His father was James Gillard, a Coal Miner/Hewer born in Broadhembury, Devonshire in 1858 and died in 1917. His mother was Charlotte (nee Crawshaw) born in Dewsbury in 1856 and died in 1944. They were married in Dewsbury in 1883.

Their other children were; William Henry, born in 1883, John Edward, born in 1885, James Richard, born in 1888, Fred, born in 1890 and Sarah Helen (Ellen), born in 1893.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 55, Thornton Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 20, Thornton Street.

Herbert was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School; he worked as a Cloth Dyer for Messrs Newsome, West and Company in Staincliffe.

He enlisted on 16th January 1918 into the Army Service Corps with the Service Number T4/142583 and was later transferred to the 16th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps rising to the rank of Lance Corporal A/203511. He was sent to the Western Front some months after enlisting and was killed in action in northern France on 6th November 1918; he was buried in the field and in 1921 his remains were reburied in Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois, Nord, France. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Fontaine-au-Bois is a village some 8 kilometres north-east of Le Cateau, or 4 kilometres north-west of Landrecies. Cross Roads Cemetery is west of the village beyond the hamlet of Rue du Pont, at the crossroads with the road to Bousies. The Cemetery was begun in the first week of November, 1918, by the 1/1st Northumbrian Field Ambulance; and at the Armistice it contained the graves of 61 soldiers from the United Kingdom. It was then enlarged by the concentration of graves from the battlefields between the Escaut and the Sambre, and from certain other cemeteries. With four exceptions, every man buried in this cemetery fell between the 1st October, 1918 and the Armistice. There are now nearly 750, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 100 are unidentified.

Herbert 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 the Providence Independent Methodist Church, Thornton Street, Dewsbury.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

Herbert Gillard

A/203511, 16th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 06 November 1918 Age 22

Son of Mrs. Charlotte Gillard, of 20, Thornton St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-Au-Bois



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.