



Clifford Oxley

1897 - 1917

Clifford was born in Dewsbury in 1897. His father was Dixon Oxley, a Rag Merchant born in Morley in 1868 and died in 1942. His mother was Harriet Elizabeth (nee Wood) born in Batley in 1867 and died in Wigan in 1900. They were married on 24th July 1886 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Carlinghow, Batley.

Their other children were; Arthur, born in 1886, Ethel, born in 1889 and Fred, born in 1892.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 19, Back Albion Street, Dewsbury, on the 1901 Census at 40, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury; Harriet's sister Emma Wood (born in 1874 and died in 1968) is recorded as a servant living with Dixon and his children. In 1911 they lived at Halifax Road, Staincliffe, Batley. Emma Oxley is recorded as his wife of 9 years, but no marriage record has been found. They had a daughter, Muriel, born in 1906. They later lived at "Fernbrook," Oxford Road, Dewsbury.

Clifford was a single man who was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School and New College Harrogate after which he went to France and Switzerland to learn French. Before enlistment he worked for his father's business, Oxley and Sharp, Rag Merchants.

At the outbreak of war, he came back to Dewsbury to join up and after he had reached his 18th birthday he joined the Officer Training Corps at Leeds University in January 1916. As there were no commissions available for some time, he and some others joined the Royal Field Artillery in Heckmondwike and he served as Gunner 127376 in "D" Battery, 11th Brigade and was attached to Brigade Headquarters carrying messages. He was killed in action in the Ypres Salient by a shell burst on 28th December 1917 and was buried in Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boesinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Clifford was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

There are now 1,307 First World War casualties buried or commemorated in Artillery Wood Cemetery. 506 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate 12 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Clifford 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 on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill and on the War Memorial Plaque from the now demolished St. James's Mission Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the Memorial Plaque in Wheelwright Grammar School to former pupils and on the War Memorial to former pupils of Harrogate New College in Green Lane, Harrogate.

In Memory of
Gunner
Clifford Oxley

127376, "D" Bty. 11th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 28 December 1917 Age 20

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Oxley, of "Fembrook," Oxford Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Artillery Wood Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

