



Vernon Thornton

1879-1921

Vernon was born in Dewsbury on 3rd February 1879. His father was Robert Thornton, a self-employed Rag Auctioneer born in Dewsbury in 1838 and died in 1904. His mother was Louisa Ann (nee Field) born in Dewsbury in 1840 and died in 1909. They were married in 1861.

Their other children were; Robert Benjamin Field, born in Dewsbury in 1862, William, born in 1864 and died in 1865, Goldwin, born in 1867, Percy, born in 1870, Ernest, born in 1872, Herbert, born in 1874, Edward Stuart, born in 1876 and died in 1886, Julia, born in 1880 and Julian, born in 1884 and served in World War 1.

On the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 3, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury.

Vernon worked for his father's business in Wilton Road and later in Savile Town, situated at the junction of Savile Road and Mill Street West; in 1901 he is a Rag Warehouse Weighman and in 1911 a Rag Warehouseman. He was married in 1907 to Emma Crawshaw (born in 1877 and died in 1963) they had two children; Phyllis, born in 1910 and Vernon, born in 1914. In 1911 they lived at 3, Caulms Terrace, Ward Street, Crackenedge, Dewsbury and in 1921 at 9, Slaithwaite Road, Thornhill Lees.

He enlisted into the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 34162 in the 12th Battalion, 2nd/5th Battalion, 1st Battalion and 5th Battalion. He was transferred to the Reserve list on 28th May 1919. No other details have been found regarding his service apart from him being awarded a pension, his entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour states that he died of gas poisoning. Vernon was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He died at his home on 13th January 1921 from Aortic heart disease and Syncope as a result of gas poisoning during war service; he was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery.

Vernon is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

He is one of twenty men named on the above who are not recorded as official war casualties due to their cause of death not recorded as being directly attributed to war service.

