



Robert Stott (Robert Whittaker) 1899-1921

Robert Stott was born *Robert Whittaker* in Gannow, Burnley, Lancashire on 12th February 1899. His father was allegedly John Stott, born in Elland in 1859 and died in Dewsbury in 1911. His mother was Margaret Ellen Whittaker, born in Burnley on 20th October 1875 and died in 1955. She was married on 28th March 1907 to Frederick (Fred) Lee at Park Hill Methodist Chapel, Burnley. They had four children who were Robert's half-siblings: Edna, born in 1908, Elsie, born in 1909, Ellen, born in 1914 and Jack, born in 1916.

His half-siblings of the Stott family were; Frances, born in 1881, Herbert, born in 1883 and emigrated to Canada and died of wounds in 1918 whilst serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Lily, born in 1885 and Willie, born in 1887.

On the 1901 Census Robert is living with the Stott family at Whins Wood, Ingrow, Keighley, the town which is given as his place of birth; in 1911 they are living at 48, Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and in 1918 at 12, Cemetery Road, West Town, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in the 8th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers serving as Private Robert Stott with the Service Number 27344. According to his brother Herbert's obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter on 24th August 1918, he had been gassed whilst serving in France and could not attend the funeral. Robert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal but the latter was returned to the Authorities.

Robert was married to Alice Herrick (born *Clara Alice Shufflebottom* in Wath-upon-Deane, Yorkshire in 1902 and died in 1924) at Thornhill Parish Church on 25th December 1920; his occupation is shown as a fitter. The church marriage record originally gives his surname as Stott but it was then altered to *Whittaker* (sic). They lived at with Alice's parents and family at Hastingley Lane, Thornhill. He died in Dewsbury General Infirmary on 24th March 1921 from Acute Intestinal Obstructions due to adhesions and Gangrene and Exhaustion. A son, George Whitaker was born on 25th August 1921. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery in the same grave as his father and brother Herbert; the only visible headstone is that of Herbert which was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Alice was remarried in 1924 to a Charlesworth Redgwick (born in 1899 and died in 1945) but she died a few months later in that same year.

Robert 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.