



Herbert Summerscales

1890 – 1917

Herbert was born at 2, Estcourt Street, Goole, Yorkshire on 11th December 1890. His father was John William Summerscales, a Railway Wagon Inspector and later a Wagoner in the grocery department at Dewsbury Co-operative Society born in Thornhill in 1864 and died in 1933. His mother was Mary (nee Lumb) born in Middlestown in 1863 and died in 1934. They were married on the 14th December 1889 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Herbert was their only child.

The birth record of Herbert was registered in Goole on 19th January 1891 and on the Census of that year taken on 5th April, Mary and Herbert are recorded as living with her parents at 41, High Street, Thornhill and John is living with his parents at 1, High Street. In 1901 and 1911 the family lived at 170, Edge Lane, Thornhill.

Herbert was a single man and worked as an assistant and tuner for Mr. J. T. Auty, pianoforte and music dealer of Northgate, Dewsbury. He was also the assistant organist at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1916 serving as Private 41307 in the 15th Battalion Highland Light Infantry. He died of wounds in a hospital on the Belgian coast on 9th August 1917 after being wounded in the Ypres Salient on 15th July 1917. He was buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In June 1917, Commonwealth forces relieved French forces on 6 kilometres of front line from the sea to a point south of Nieuport (now Nieuwpoort), and held this sector for six months. Coxyde (now Koksijde) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line. The village was used for rest billets and was occasionally shelled, but the cemetery, which had been started by French troops, was found to be reasonably safe. It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line. The French returned to the sector in December 1917 and continued to use the cemetery, and during 1918, Commonwealth naval casualties from bases in Dunkirk (now Dunkerque) were buried there. The cemetery now contains 1,507 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

H Summerscales

41307, 15th Bn., Highland Light Infantry who died on 12 August 1917 Age 26

Son of John William and Mary Summerscales, of 170, Edge Lane, Thornhill, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Coxyde Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

