



William Richardson

1882 - 1916

William was born in Rothwell near Leeds in 1882. His father was John Richardson, a coal miner born in Middleton, Leeds in 1850 and died in 1894. His mother was Hannah (née Smales/Smailes) born in Hunslet in 1852 and died in 1913. They were married at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Hunslet on 24th March 1873.

Their other children were; Elizabeth, born in 1873, John Smailes, born in 1875, Joseph, born in 1878, Amelia, born in 1879, George, born in 1884 and served in World War 1, Selina, born in 1886, Edith, born in 1888, Lionel, born in 1890 and was killed in action 15th September 1916 and Lillian Eveline, born in 1893.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Coppull Street, Rothwell, in 1891 at Owl Lane, Ossett and in 1901 at 8, Lawson Street, Dewsbury.

William was a regular attendee at the Dewsbury Adult School in Peel Street, being associated with the young men's class. He worked as a carriage cleaner at the Dewsbury Depot of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway waggon department and was married to Frances Armitage (born in 1883 and died in 1940) on 12th May 1906 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr. They had six children; Eric Armitage, born in 1907 and died in 1908, Cyril, born in 1908 and died in 1908, Olive, born in 1909, Emma, born in 1911, Hilda, born in 1913 and Elsie, born in 1915. In 1911 the family lived at 18, Smith Road, Batley Carr and later at 54, Back Gladstone Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

He served as Private 4919 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry attesting in Wakefield on 23rd June 1915 and was sent to the Western Front on 12th May 1916. He was wounded in the left arm on 2nd September but did not return home and after recovering he rejoined his regiment. He was badly wounded in the head during the aftermath of the Battle of the Somme and died of his wounds on 13th December 1916 and was buried in Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, Pas-de-Calais, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Warlincourt and Saulty are villages on either side of the main road between Arras and Doullens. The site of the cemetery was chosen in May 1916. It was used from June 1916 to May 1917 by the 20th and 43rd Casualty Clearing Stations, in February 1917 by the 1st/1st South Midland, and from April to June 1917 by the 32nd. From June 1917, the cemetery was practically unused until the fighting of May and June 1918, when field ambulances buried in it. After the Armistice the cemetery was increased by graves brought in from smaller military cemeteries. The cemetery now contains 1,266 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

William 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 Memorial Plaque in Eastborough School to former pupils and as W. Richardson on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

W Richardson

4919, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 December 1916

Remembered with Honour

Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.