



William Ridley

1897 - 1917

William was born in Dewsbury in 1897. His father was Robert William Ridley, a mechanic and iron turner born in Batley Carr in 1860 and died in 1933. His mother was Mary (nee Taylor) born Millbridge, Liversedge in 1860 and died in 1916. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 13th July 1882.

Their other children were: Albert, born in 1883, Harry, born in 1885, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1887, Annie, born in 1889, Emily Lydia, born in 1892 and died in 1893 and twins Amy, born in 1894 and William, born in 1894 and died in 1894.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Albert Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at Spen Valley Road, Ravensthorpe.

William was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's School in Ravensthorpe and worked for Jas. Smith and Company, Dyers and Dry Cleaners, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Heckmondwike serving as Private 24137 in the 8th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front in October 1916. He was killed in action being shot by a sniper on 27th August 1917 when his Battalion were attempting to capture Pheasant Trench near Langemarck during the Battle of Passchendaele. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

William is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

William Ridley

24137, 8th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 28 August 1917

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

RIDLEY W.