

George Henry Bingham 1878 – 1917

George was born at Gower Street, Leeds on 22nd October 1878. His father was Alfred Bingham, a Painter born in Leeds in 1840 and died in 1897. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Duffy) born in Leeds in 1848. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Leeds on 7th June 1869.

Their other children were; Alfred, born in 1868, Thomas, born in 1870, Jane Elizabeth, born in 1873, Caroline, born in 1877, Margaret, born in 1884 and Beatrice, born in 1886.

According to the 1881 Census the family were all registered at the Leeds Union Workhouse, Beckett Street, Leeds. Fortunately, by the 1891 census, the family were living at Hampton Row, Leeds. On the 1901 census, the family were living at 31, Wrigglesworth Street, Leeds.

George was married at All Saints Cathedral, Wakefield on 13th December 1903 to Edith Metcalfe (born in Leeds in 1883 and died in 1948). They had four children: Annie Louise, born in Leeds in 1904, Alfred, born in Leeds in 1907, Edith, born in Ossett in 1914 and died in 1915 and Leah, born in Earlsheaton in 1916. According to the report of George's death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 4th August 1917, he never saw his youngest daughter. On the 1911 Census the family were living at 26, Florist Street, Leeds. At the time of George's death they were at Exley's Yard, Earlsheaton. George worked as a Labourer at Messrs Jacobs Brothers and Company, Rag Merchants, West End Mills, Westgate, Dewsbury, prior to that he had worked for the Ossett Corporation in the Sanitary Department. Edith was remarried in 1918 to John March (born in Blaydon, County Durham in 1877 and died in 1953), they had three children.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in August 1915 serving as Private 1692 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was later transferred to the 1st/4th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers serving as Private 202055. He was killed in action near Ypres on 7th July 1917 and was buried in Locre Hospice Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen Belgium. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Locre Hospice Cemetery is located 10 Kms south-west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. Locre (now Loker) was in Allied hands during the greater part of the war, and field ambulances were stationed in the Convent of St. Antoine. The village changed hands several times between 25th and 30th April 1918, when it was recaptured by the French. The hospice, or convent, was the scene of severe fighting on 20th May, but was not retaken until first week in July. The Hospice Cemetery was begun in June 1917 by field ambulances and fighting units, and was used until April 1918. After the Armistice four graves were transferred to it from the garden of the Hospice, which was ultimately rebuilt. The cemetery now contains 244 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 12 of the burials are unidentified and ten graves destroyed by shellfire are now represented by special memorials.

George 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 Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.



