



Wilson Nichols

1892 - 1917

Wilson was born in Dewsbury in 1892. His father was Shaw Nichols, a joiner born in Langley Moor, Durham in 1859 and died in 1938. His mother was Sarah Ann (nee Wilson) born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1922. They were married on 26th October 1894 at St. Marks Church, Dewsbury.

They also had two daughters; Fanny, born in 1885 and Hannah Elizabeth, born in 1889.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 17, Back Hartley Street, Batley Carr, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Pyrah Street, Dewsbury.

Wilson was educated at Jubilee Council School and later worked as a dyer for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons in Savile Town. He was married at St. James' Church, Heckmondwike on 11th November 1913 to Maud Powell (born in 1890 and died in 1959). They lived at 24, Hope Street, Dewsbury and had two daughters; Ivy, born in 1914 and Alma, born in 1918 after Wilson's death. Maud was remarried in 1920 to James Moorhouse (born in 1880 died in 1966). They had a son; Benjamin Moorhouse, born in 1921 and lived at 27, Back Lane, Heckmondwike.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in July 1915 into the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers serving as Private 20350 and was posted to the Dardanelles (Gallipoli Campaign) in October 1915 and later served in Egypt. He was sent to the Western Front in February 1916 and was wounded in May 1916 when he was sent home with septic poisoning; he was home on leave in October 1916 and returned to the Front in December 1916. He was killed in action on 30th November 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. Wilson was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Cambrai Memorial commemorates 7,120 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known. The Memorial stands on a terrace in Louverval Military Cemetery, situated south of the small village of Louverval which is 13 Kms north-east of Bapaume and 16 Kms south-west of Cambrai.

Wilson is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

Some of his service records spelt his surname as *Nicholls* but in 2018 Dewsbury Sacrifices contacted the relevant authorities to point out the incorrect spelling of his surname; the records were amended and his name was corrected on the panel of the Cambrai Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Wilson Nichols

20350, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 30 November 1917

Remembered with Honour

Cambrai Memorial, Louverval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

