



Charles Western Smith

1898 - 1916

Charles was born in Croxdale near Durham on 4th May 1898. His father was Hammet Smith, a glass bottle maker born in Washington, County Durham in 1870 and died in 1935. His mother was Emma (née Meredith) born in Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire in 1871 and died in 1950. They were married in 1890.

Their other children were; Mary, born in 1892, Jane, born in 1896, Emma, born in 1901, Catherine Hedley, born in 1904, Hammet, born in 1907 and died in 1916 and Emmerson, born in 1909.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Sunderland Bridge, near Croxdale and in 1911 at 7, Firth Street, High Wheatley Hill near Thornley, County Durham.

Charles was a single man who like his father worked at Kilner Brothers Glass Bottle Makers in Thornhill Lees. According to his obituary he came to live in Thornhill Lees on his fourteenth birthday, 4th May 1912 and was immediately employed at Kilner's. The family lived at 12, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees.

He served as Private 241312 Charles Smith in the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with a previous Service Number 4465, joining up in 1915 after six failed attempts due to poor eyesight. The enlistment finally took place in Mirfield and he was sent to the Western Front in February 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916 whilst his Regiment, as part of the 149th Division attacked the Salient around Thiepval known as the "Pope's Nose". His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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

In Memory of

Private

Charles Smith

241312, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 September 1916 Age 18

Son of Mrs. Emma Smith, of 12, Queen St., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

