



Lionel Richardson

1890 - 1916

Lionel was born in Ossett in 1890. 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, Leeds 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, William, born in 1882 and died of wounds 13th December 1916, George, born in 1884 and served in World War 1, Selina, born in 1886, Edith, born in 1888 and Lillian Eveline, born in 1893.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Coppull Street, Rothwell, in 1891 at Owl Lane, Ossett, in 1901 at 8, Lawson Street, Dewsbury. Lionel was already a regular soldier as the 1911 census shows him stationed in India.

Lionel was educated at Eastborough Council School and was employed as a glass hand at Kilner Brothers prior to enlisting. He was married to Ethel Newsome (born in 1892 and died in 1976) on 19th August 1915 at St. Phillip's Church, Leeds Road; they lived at 13, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury and did not have any children. Ethel was remarried at St. Philip's Church on 17th November 1923 to Vernal Dransfield (born in 1892 and died in 1965) they had three children; Alfred, born in 1924 and died in 1927, Stanley, born in 1926 and George, born in 1928.

He enlisted in 1909 into the 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps with the Service Number 9427 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and served in India for four years. He returned to England just before the outbreak of war and was sent to the Western Front on 20th December 1914. He was wounded twice and had returned home before being killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on the first day of the battle of Flers-Courcelette on 15th September 1916. His remains were not found until 1921 and he was reburied in Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France. Lionel was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Delville Wood Cemetery was made after the Armistice. Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916. There are now 5,523 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery. 3,593 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 27 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Lionel 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.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
L Richardson

9427, 3rd Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 15 September 1916

Remembered with Honour
Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.