



Beaumont Wood

1888 - 1916

Beaumont was born in Thornhill in 1888. His father was Richard Henry Wood, a wood sawyer and later a plumber and painter born in Kirkheaton, Huddersfield in 1852 and died in 1917. His mother was Elizabeth (née Bottom) born in Thornhill in 1857 and died in 1911. They were married at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill in 1876.

Their other children were; David, born in 1879 and served in World War 1, Clementia, born in 1881, Willie, born in 1883, Sarah Ann, born in 1886 and Abigail Tressylan, born in 1895. On the 1901 Census there is an entry for Theophilus Heponstall Wood, born in 1900 and recorded as son, but in 1911 he is recorded as nephew. His birth record on the General Register Office reveals him to be the son of Clementia.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Hoyles Buildings, Thornhill, in 1891 at Jackroyd Lane, Mirfield, in 1901 at Charles Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 24, Myrtle Avenue, Ravensthorpe.

Beaumont was a single man who was employed as a spinner for Messrs Henry Hamer and Sons and later in the dye house of Messrs Marshall, Kaye, and Marshall, a textile firm in Ravensthorpe. He was connected to the Ravensthorpe Wesleyan Chapel.

He enlisted in November 1915 serving as Private 20687 in the 26th Battalion Royal Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front on 4th May 1916. On 1st October 1916 the Battalion following a rest period was marched from Dernancourt near Albert to a camp at Pommiers Redoubt near the original line of 1st July. On 3rd October they took over a position near the village of Flers. On 5th October they moved to the Gird Trench from which they were to attack towards the village of Ligny-Thillooy. The men moved off in good formation with the men in good spirits but on reaching the bank the lines were subject to extremely brisk and heavy machine gun fire inflicting heavy casualties, despite the advance reached within 30 yards of the first objective, having covered some 350 yards. He was evacuated, severely wounded, to the hospital at Etaples where he died on 10th October 1916 after having his leg amputated, he was also wounded in both arms and the other leg and the left foot; he believed to the last that he was coming home but sadly his wounds were too severe. He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Beaumont was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. The Military Cemetery is to the north of the town. During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. Ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Beaumont 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Private
B Wood

20687, "D" Coy. 26th Bn, Royal Fusiliers who died on 10 October 1916

Remembered with Honour
Etaples Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.