



George Wilson

1893 – 1916

George was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was Charles Wilson, a railway agent for the Great Eastern Railway, born in Ravensthorpe in 1857 and died in 1916. His mother was Frances (née Marsden) born in Whitechapel, Cleckheaton in 1857 and died in 1929. They were married in 1885.

Their other children were; Charles Ernest, born in 1886 and died in 1886, Frank, born in 1888 and served in World War 1 and Mabel, born in 1891.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 12, Hope Street, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 23, Hope Street, and later at 56, Wharfe Street, Savile Town.

George was a single man who was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School and attended Springfield Congregationalist Chapel. He worked in Swindon as a clerk in the Education Department, having held the same position for Dewsbury County Borough Council.

He attested in the Territorial Force of the 246th West Riding Brigade, Royal Field Artillery on the 16th June 1913 at Heckmondwike serving as Bombardier 1170. He was sent to the Western Front in April 1915. He was wounded during the Battle of the Somme on 22nd August 1916 and died of his wounds on 2nd September 1916 in the 35th Casualty Clearing Station at Doullens and was buried in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No1. Somme, France. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His brother Frank, a Serjeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps visited him in the hospital. it was their first meeting since the death of their father at Easter 1916.

Doullens is a town in the Department of the Somme, approx 30 kilometres north of Amiens on the road to Arras. In March 1916, Commonwealth forces succeeded the French on the Arras front and the 19th Casualty Clearing Station came to Doullens, followed by the 41st, the 35th and the 11th. By the end of 1916, these had given way to the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital (which stayed until June 1918) and the 2nd/1st Northumbrian Casualty Clearing Station. From February 1916 to April 1918, these medical units continued to bury in the French extension (No 1) of the communal cemetery. In March and April 1918 the German advance and the desperate fighting on this front threw a severe strain on the Canadian Stationary Hospital. The extension was filled, and a second extension begun on the opposite side of the communal cemetery. The Communal Cemetery Extension No 1. contains 1,335 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury and on the Wheelwright Grammar School Memorial Plaque to former pupils.

In Memory of
Bombardier
George Wilson

1170, 246th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 02 September 1916 Age 23

Son of Frances Wilson, of 56, Wharf St., Savile Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.