



Henry (Harry) Lothian

1888 -1916

Harry was born in Garvald, Peeblesshire, Scotland on 21st February 1888. His father was Henry Lothian, a gamekeeper born in Inverkeithling, Scotland in 1841. His mother was Marjory (née Robertson) born in Dunfermline, Fife in 1848. They were married in Dunfermline on 11th June 1875.

Their other children were; Janet, born in 1877, Ann (Annie), born in 1880, Marjory, born in 1882, Hannah, born in 1884 and Helen (Nellie), born in 1886.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Kinniel Wood House, Boness, West Lothian and later at Blairwood House, Oakley, Dunfermline.

Harry was a single man who in 1902 was recorded as a pupil at Dunfermline High School. He was a Dentist at 29a Westgate, Dewsbury and placed weekly advertisements in the Dewsbury District News and the Dewsbury Reporter on 15th and 22nd July 1916; it was stated in an advertisement that "*Mr Lothian is on active service and Mr. Thomson of 16, York Street, Wakefield is running the practise for him*". On 21st January 1922 there is an advertisement in the Dewsbury Reporter for "*Lothian's Dental Surgery, Proprietor, W.J. Crooks*".

He enlisted at Inverness in December 1915 serving as Private 291658 in the 1st/7th Battalion Gordon Highlanders with a previous Service Number 4831. He was sent to the Western Front in July 1916 and was killed in action at Beaumont-Hamel during the final stages of the Battle of the Somme on 14th November 1916. He is buried in Martinsart British Cemetery, Somme, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour gives an address at 15, St. Mary's Place, Savile Town and states that his body was not found until February 1922, although there is no reference to this on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission records.

Martinsart was close to the Allied front line until September 1916, and again from March to August 1918. Martinsart British Cemetery was begun at the end of June 1916. It was used as a front-line cemetery until October 1916 and again in September 1918, when bodies were brought in from the battlefields for burial by V Corps. After the Armistice, the cemetery was enlarged when more graves were brought in from the area north, east and south of the village. There are now 488 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 155 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate six casualties believed to be buried among them. The cemetery is unusual in that the graves are marked by stones made from red Corsehill or Locharbriggs sandstone, rather than the more usual Portland stone.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919.

In Memory of
Private
H Lothian

291658, 1st/7th Bn., Gordon Highlanders who died on 14 November 1916 Age 28

Son of Henry and Marjory Lothian, of Blairwood House, Oakley, Dunfermline.

Remembered with Honour
Martinsart British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.