



Clifford Hemingway Ibbotson

1893 – 1916

Clifford was born in Ossett in 1893. His father was Joseph Ibbotson, a Rag Grinder born in Ossett in 1852 and died in 1923. His mother was Emma (née Hemingway) born in Wakefield in 1856 and died in 1913. They were married in 1882.

Their other children who could be traced were; John Arthur, born in 1883 and died in 1883, Gilbert, born in 1884, and Mary Ethel, born in 1888 and died in 1888.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived in Headlands Road, Ossett and in 1911 at Fearnley's Buildings, Old Bank, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury. On the latter census there is an entry for an Ida Ibbotson aged 4, her status is not given and her relationship to this Ibbotson family has not been established. No birth record has been found for a child of this name born around 1907.

Clifford was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Rope Lad at Crawshaw and Warburton's colliery. Prior to enlisting his employers were the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at Thornhill Lees.

He enlisted in 1915 serving as Private 5999 with the 1st Battalion, Connaught Rangers who were in Mesopotamia from 10th January 1916. He died from the effects of heat on 10th July 1916 and was buried in Basra War Cemetery Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Clifford was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal but his Medal Roll Index Card shows that these were later returned.

Basra War Cemetery now contains 2,560 burials of the First World War; in 1935 it was decided to remove all the headstones as the salty soil had caused them to substantially deteriorate. Instead, all the Commonwealth casualties were commemorated on a Memorial Screen Wall which was built in the same year. Because of the current political instability in Iraq, the cemetery is inaccessible. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a Roll of Honour commemorating all casualties buried and commemorated in Iraq at their Head Office in Maidenhead.

Clifford 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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced) and on the now lost War Memorial Tablet in Ossett Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of

Private

C Ibbotson

5999, 1st Bn., Connaught Rangers who died on 10 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Basra War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission