



William Henry Hurworth

1884 – 1915

William was born in Fleetwood, Lancashire in 1884. His father was Robert Hurworth, a Journeyman Plumber born in Skeeby, Yorkshire in 1842 and died in 1895. His mother was Eliza (nee Trickett) born in Scarborough in 1845 and died in 1903. They were married at St Mary's Church, Scarborough on 5th November 1867.

Their other children were; James Robert, born in 1868, Frances Emily, born in 1869 and died in 1870, Richard, born in 1871, Sarah Jane, born in 1872, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1874, Frances Emily, born in 1875, Eliza Annie, born in 1879, George, born in 1880, Ada, born in 1886 and Evelyn, born in 1889.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 10, Scargill Street, Dewsbury. In 1901 William is working as a Carpet Piecer and living as a boarder at the home of his sister Eliza (now Mrs. Edward McHale) at Wellington Place, Dewsbury.

William was educated at Carlton Road Council School and was connected with the Granville Street Wesleyan Mission Choir and attended St. James Mission Church in Dewsbury. He was married to Fanny Talbot (born in 1884 and died in 1917) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 18th November 1905. They lived at 5, Back Halliley Street, Dewsbury and had four children; George, born in 1907 and died in 1908, Alice, born in 1910, Robert, born in 1912 and Annie, born in 1914 and died in 1915. The 1911 census shows his occupation as a General Labourer.

He enlisted on 27th August 1901 into the 3rd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment serving as Private 9495 and was posted to the South African Campaign (Boer War) for which he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Cape Colony and the year 1902. At the end of his service he was transferred to the Reserves.

In WW1 he enlisted in Wakefield, serving as Private 2299 in the 1st/5th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He was accidentally killed near Ypres on 27th October 1915; having just come out of the trenches, he was asleep in a dug-out with two other men. Heavy rain during the night caused the roof to collapse, completely covering him and one other man. He was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, and the cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49th (West Riding), the 38th (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 39 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate three casualties known to be buried among them.

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Private
William Henry Hurworth

2299, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 October 1915 Age 31

Son of Robert and Eliza Hurworth; husband of the late Fanny Hurworth (nee Talbot).

Remembered with Honour
Bard Cottage Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

