



Peter Spelman

1881-1914

Peter was born on 1st May 1881 at 44, Fleuchar Street, Dundee, Scotland. His father was Philip Spelman, born in Jersey, Channel Islands in 1837 and died in 1909. He served in the 91st (Argyllshire Highlanders) Regiment of Foot for 21 years and later became a policeman in Dundee before finally becoming a Warder at HM Prison in Perth. His mother was Mary (nee Lynch) born in Ireland around 1845 and died in 1898. They were married at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Dundee on 24th November 1874.

Their other children were; Matthew, born in 1875 and served in World War 1, Mary, born in 1877 and Philip, born in 1878 and served in World War 1.

On the 1881 Census the family were living at 44, Fleuchar Street, Dundee and in 1891 at Edinburgh Road, Perth. On the 1901 Census Philip is retired and living at 28, Bernard Street, Dundee. Peter was by then a serving soldier in the Royal Scots Fusiliers stationed at Ayr Barracks.

Peter enlisted in the Militia of the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) at Perth in April 1899 serving as Private 7203 until December 1900, his attestation papers state he was 5ft 3in tall with brown hair and brown eyes. On 9th February 1901 he enlisted in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and served in the South African Campaign (Boer War) as Private 6707 and was awarded the Queens's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Transvaal and 1902.

The 1911 census shows Peter living at 1, Whitehead's Buildings, Dewsbury with his sister Mary's family; Mary had married a David Buchan who came from Perth. Peter's occupation was shown as a labourer at a chemical works. Mary Buchan had nine children; her youngest, born in 1922 was named Peter Spelman Buchan after his uncle. Peter Spelman Buchan was killed in action in Burma in 1945 serving with the King's Own Scottish Borderers; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial.

He must have moved back to Dundee, as his obituary in the Dundee Courier on 2nd December 1914 stated that at the outbreak of war he was recalled as a Reservist with his original rank and Service Number; Private 6707 in the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front on 6th October 1914. He had worked as a labourer at the Blackness Foundry and lived with his brother Matthew at 61, Peddie Street, Dundee. He died in hospital at Le Touquet, France on 7th November 1914 from Tetanus, having being wounded in the lung during enemy action. He was buried in Le Touquet Paris-Plage Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Peter was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Duchess of Westminster's Hospital (No.1 B.R.C.S) was at Le Touquet from October, 1914, to July, 1918, and the British graves in the Communal Cemetery were made from that hospital. A wooden obelisk in memory of the British dead was erected in the cemetery by the Lifeboat men of the commune. There are now 142 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war here. All of whom died in the period November, 1914, to April, 1916.

Peter 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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1918 and in the Dundee Roll of Honour and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Dundee.

In Memory of

Private

P Spelman

6707, 1st Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers who died on 07 November 1914

Remembered with Honour

Le Touquet-Paris Plage Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

