



Charlie Lee

1891 – 1917

Charlie was born in Dewsbury in 1891 His father was George Lee, a Cashier and later Company Secretary and Director of a Shoddy Mill born in Heckmondwike in 1852 and died in 1924. His mother was Annie (nee Furness) born in Heckmondwike in 1851 and died in 1921. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 15th May 1877.

Their other children were; Emma Louisa, born in 1878, William Henry, born in 1880 and died in 1903, Arthur born in 1882, Harold, born in 1884 and died in 1885, Mary Ethel, born in 1887 and Arnold, born in 1893 and was killed in action 1st July 1916.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Bunker Hill, Batley, in 1891 at 28, Water Lane, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 6, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 13, Clarke Street, Westborough, Dewsbury and later at "Kirklees" Healds Road, Dewsbury.

Charlie was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and Boothroyd Lane Council School and worked as a clerk in the firm of Thomas Heald, Yarn Exporters. He was married on 15th February 1915 to Elsie Hemingway (born in 1893 and died in 1954) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. They lived at Ravensfield Road, Ravensthorpe and had no children. Elsie later moved to Marshchapel, a village in Lincolnshire around 11 miles south-east of Grimsby

He had enlisted under the Derby Scheme and received his papers in July 1916 serving as Private 30751 in the 7th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in September 1916. He was later hospitalised by a septic wound. He was killed in action on 30th March 1917 together with two pals from his Battalion when they were struck by a single shell somewhere near Bapaume in France. He was buried in Bertincourt Chateau British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Charlie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bertincourt is a village and commune about 9kms east of Bapaume on the road to Gouzeaucourt. Bertincourt was occupied in March, 1917, evacuated on the 24th March, 1918, and re-occupied by the 1st Canterbury (NZ) Infantry Battalion on the 3rd September, 1918. The 7th K.O.Y.L.I. buried in this cemetery at the end of March, 1917, and other units (mainly the 37th and 42nd Divisions) in September, 1918. There are now nearly 50, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

Charlie is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in the Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

C Lee

30751, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 30 March 1917

Remembered with Honour

Bertincourt Chateau British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.