



## **Charles William Victor Dawson**

### **1898 - 1917**

Victor, the name by which his family referred to him was born in Savile Town, Dewsbury on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1898 and was baptised on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1898 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was Ernest Inman Dawson, a Professor of Music, teaching piano, organ and singing born in Dewsbury in 1875 and died in 1927. His mother was Florence (nee Newsome) born in Savile Town in 1876 and died in 1911. They were married on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1897 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

They had another son; Maurice Inman, born in 1902.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 66a, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 30, Brunswick Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

Victor was a single man who was educated at St. John's Church School, Dewsbury Moor and attended the Church where he was a chorister. He was keenly interested in the Boy Scout Movement and attained the grade of assistant Scoutmaster. He worked in the offices of Messrs G.H. Hirst, Victoria Mills, Savile Town.

He enlisted at the age of 17 into the Cameron Highlanders as Private 200771; being underage he was transferred to the Army Reserve and came home to resume his civilian occupation. He re-enlisted in March 1917 joining the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders serving as Private 313020 and was sent to the Western Front in June and was wounded on 31<sup>st</sup> July which necessitated a stay in hospital. He was killed by machine gun fire on the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917. He was originally buried in 51<sup>st</sup> Division Cemetery, Flesquieres, which was almost 1 kilometre south of the village of Flesquieres on a sunken track. In 1930 he was one of 74 casualties who were reburied in Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres, Nord, France. Victor was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Flesquieres is a village approximately 5 kilometres south-west of Cambrai and about 5 kilometres south of the main road from Cambrai to Bapaume. Flesquieres was attacked by the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division, with tanks, on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917, in the battle of Cambrai and was captured on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It was lost in the late stages of the battle, and retaken on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. The Bois d'Orival is a small wood on the road from Flesquieres to Fontaine-Notre Dame, cleared by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Guards on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918. Orival Wood Cemetery was begun in November 1917, during the Battle of Cambrai; used again in September-October 1918; and enlarged in 1930 by the transfer of graves from other cemeteries. There are now nearly 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.

Victor is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and as *C.W. Victor Dawson* in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Victor Dawson* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of  
Private

## Charles William Victor Dawson

313020, 7th Bn., Gordon Highlanders who died on 20 November 1917 Age 19

Son of Ernest Inman Dawson, of 30, Brunswick St., Westborough, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.