



Richard Alfred Burns

1898 - 1917

Richard was born in Batley Carr on 26th December 1898. His father was Thomas Burns, a cloth raiser born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1954. His mother was Bertha Mary (nee Hunter) born in Wakefield in 1875 and died in 1968. They were married on 21st October 1897 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Alexis, born in 1900, Hannah Elizabeth, born in 1903, Ethel, born in 1905, and Walter Frederick, born in 1907.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at Hill End, off Wakefield Road, Dewsbury and later at 49, Hollinroyd Road, Dewsbury.

Richard was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church Day and Sunday schools and was a member of the Temperance Society. He worked as a cloth layer employed by Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Spinkwell Mills, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in August 1916 serving as Private 34348 in the 7th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front around June 1917. He was killed in action on 30th November 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai. He is buried in Sunken Road Cemetery, Villers-Plouich, Nord, France. Richard was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Villers-Plouich is a village 2 kilometres north of Gouzeaucourt which is 19 kilometres north-east of Peronne and 16 kilometres south-west of Cambrai. Villers-Plouich was captured in April 1917, by the 13th East Surreys, lost in March 1918 and regained at the end of the following September, when the 1st East Surreys were the first troops to enter the village. There are now over 50, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified

Richard 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 Hanging Heaton War Memorial located in St. Paul's Churchyard and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church which was relocated to Dewsbury Minster and on the Dewsbury Parish Church School Memorial tablet and in the book: 'The Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev W.E. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Associate of King's College University of London. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

In Memory of
Private
R A Burns

34348, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 30 November 1917

Remembered with Honour
Sunken Road Cemetery, Villers-Plouich



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of "Frajohn" a member of the Great War Forum.