



Charles Henry Bedford

1887-1918

Charles was born in Earlsheaton on 21st July 1887 and baptised at St. Peter's Church on 11th September 1887. His father was William Arthur Bedford, a Blanket Raiser born in High Hoyland near Barnsley in 1853 and died in 1920. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Dews) born in Earlsheaton in 1856 and died in 1909. They were married at St. Peter's Church on 2nd June 1884.

They also had a daughter, Dorothy Margaret, born in 1890.

William was previously married on 12th September 1874 at St. Augustine's Church, Scissett near Huddersfield to Sarah Liles (born in 1853 and died in 1880) they had a son, John Edward, born in Scissett in 1875.

On the Census Records for 1891 and 1901 the family lived at Town Street, Earlsheaton, in 1911 Charles is living with his widowed uncle Mr. Charles Dews at 3, Chatsworth Terrace, Earlsheaton. His father William Arthur is recorded as an inmate at Dewsbury Union Workhouse at 58, Healds Road, where he remained until he died. His sister Dorothy was employed as a live-in domestic nurse to a Jackson family in Ben Rhydding, Ilkley.

Charles worked as a Plumber but little else is known about him.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in 1915 serving as Private 18676 in the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Balkan Campaign on 3rd August that same year. It is not known when he was sent to the Western Front but he was killed in action in Flanders on 18th August 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Charles was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, which is located 12.5 Kms south of Ypres (now Ieper). The memorial commemorates the 11,349 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave and died in the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

Charles is also 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 Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Charles Henry Bedford

18676, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 18 August 1918

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

BEDFORD C. H.