



## **Wharton Collinson**

### **1898-1918**

Wharton was born in Staincliffe, Dewsbury on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1898. His father was William Collinson, a Woollen Spinner later a Layer-on at a rag merchant's born in Heckmondwike in 1874 and died in 1940. His mother was Delena (nee Nicholson) born in Batley in 1876 and died in 1952. They were married in Dewsbury in 1897.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1897, Herbert, born in 1901 and Edith, born in 1903.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 28, Dewsbury Gate Road, Staincliffe, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 42, Dewsbury Gate Road and later at 109, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor.

Wharton was a single man who was educated at Staincliffe Church of England School and was connected with the Baptist Sunday school; he worked for Messrs T. Hincliffe and Sons, Bakers as a Goods Deliverer.

He enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry in September 1915 at the age of 16 years and 9 months with the Service Number 29464 and was sent to the Western Front in May 1916, but when his true age was discovered he was returned home. He returned to the front on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1918 serving as Private 203356 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, He died of wounds in a Casualty Clearing Station at Haringhe in Belgian Flanders on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1918 and was buried in Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery. Wharton was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His family received the news in a letter from the Matron of the Hospital where he was being treated, adding; *"He sent his love, and hoped you would not worry too much about him."*

The cemetery is located 18 kilometres from Ieper (Ypres) town centre on a road connecting Ieper to Poperinge and on to Roesbrugge: Bandaghem, like Dozinghem and Mendinghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War. The cemetery site was chosen in July 1917 for the 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations and burials from these and other hospitals (notably the 36<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station in 1918) continued until October 1918. The cemetery contains 772 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Wharton 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

## Wharton Collinson

203356, 7th Bn., Seaforth Highlanders who died on 20 April 1918 Age 19

Son of William and Delena Collinson, of 109, Moor End Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

