



Maurice Crossley

1899?-1918

Maurice was allegedly born in Gildersome near Leeds on 1st October 1899; (this information is taken from his service records as no trace of his birth registration has been found). His father was Joshua Walker Murgatroyd Crossley, a Dyer's Labourer, born in Adwalton, Leeds in 1873 and died in 1933. His mother was Jane/Jinnie (nee Oram) born in Heckmondwike in 1878 and died in 1953. They were married on 7th August 1897 at St. Anne's Church, Leeds.

Their other children were; Sarah Ann (Sallie), born in Gildersome in 1898, Joseph Benjamin (Benny), born in Gildersome in 1901, Mary (Maria), born in Morley in 1903, Eleanor (Eileen), born in Ravensthorpe in 1905, Joshua, born in Ravensthorpe in 1907, Edgar, born in Ravensthorpe in 1909, Roland, born in Ravensthorpe in 1911, Kathleen, born in Ravensthorpe in 1913, James William, born in Ravensthorpe in 1915 and Jane (Jennie), born in Ravensthorpe in 1917 and died in 1918.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 5, Philadelphia Road, Gildersome, in 1911 at 3, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe and later at 855, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe.

Maurice was a single man who worked as a Dyer's Labourer.

He was called up on 10th October 1917 and enlisted in Pontefract on 18th October serving as Private 54014 in the 1st/7th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was sent to the Western Front on 25th April 1918 and died of wounds sustained in action in France on 1st November 1918 and was buried in Thiant Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Maurice was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Thiant is a village in the Department of the Nord, 8 kilometres south-west of Valenciennes, near the junction of the Ecaillon and the Escaut. The commonwealth war graves can be found in a plot at the West end of the Communal Cemetery. There are now 72 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war commemorated in this site (mostly men of the 51st (Highland) Division from October-November 1918). Of these, 3 are unidentified.

Maurice 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Rifleman

Maurice Crossley

54014, 1st/7th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 01 November 1918 Age
19

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Crossley, of 855, Huddersfield Rd., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Thiant Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.