



William Crosby

1891 – 1915

William was born in Dewsbury on 30th October 1891 and baptised at St. Philip's Church, Dewsbury on 30th November 1891. His father was John Crosby, a Railway Porter born in Nottingham in 1853 and died in Dewsbury in 1912. His mother was Mary (nee Worthington) born in Stockport in 1854 and died in 1923. They were married on 27th July 1873 at St. Thomas's Church, Heaton Chapel, Stockport.

Their other children were; George William, born in 1873 and died in 1874, Robert, born in 1875 and died in 1875, Frederick/Fred, born in 1876, Sarah Jane, born in 1878, Bertha, born in 1880, Louie, born in 1882, George, born in 1884, Norah, born in 1886, Bessie, born in 1887 and died in 1887, Mary Ann Hough (Polly), born in 1889 and died in 1896 and Blanche Eveline, born in 1890 and died in 1891.

On the 1881 Census the family were living at Spring Gardens, Earlsheaton, in 1891 at 1, Pepper Royd Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 43, Woodville, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 30, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury.

On the 1911 census, William was employed as a Shop Assistant in a tailor's shop and later at the Great Northern Railway Goods Yard, very close to his home at The Nook. He was married in 1914 to Ida Carrott (born in Shipley in 1897 and died in 1940). They lived at 222, The Nook, Earlsheaton and had a daughter; Mary Olive, born in 1914.

He enlisted at Batley serving in the 1st/5th Battalion of the the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as Private 1735 and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He was killed near Ypres on 24th October 1915. According to the report on his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 30th October 1915, he was serving as a machine gunner and he was shot in the head by a sniper. Sadly, he died just a few days before his 24th birthday and some birthday presents were on their way to him at the front. He was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

For much of the First World War, the village of Boesinghe (now Boezinge) directly faced the German line across the Yser canal. Bard Cottage was a house a little set back from the line, close to a bridge called Bard's Causeway, and the cemetery was made nearby in a sheltered position under a high bank. Burials were made between June 1915 and October 1918 and they reflect the presence of the 49th (West Riding), the 38th (Welsh) and other infantry divisions in the northern sectors of the Ypres Salient, as well as the advance of artillery to the area in the autumn of 1917. There are now 1,639 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 39 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate three casualties known to be buried among them.

William 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 Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of

Private

W Crosby

1735, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 October 1915

Remembered with Honour

Bard Cottage Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

