



George William Boothroyd

1881-1916

George was born in Hanging Heaton on 5th May 1881, his registered birth name was *George Willie Boothroyd*. He was baptised at the Methodist New Connection Chapel, Hanging Heaton on 27th September that same year. His father was John Boothroyd, a cloth fuller born in Honley near Huddersfield in 1851 and died in 1905. His mother was Ellen (née Firth) born in Dewsbury in 1857 and died in 1888. They were married on 21st August 1875 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

They had a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1878.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Low Road, Hanging Heaton, in 1891 and 1901 at High Street, Hanging Heaton.

George worked as a hairdresser and was married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 27th July 1907 to Margaret Durkin (born in Barnsley in 1887 and died in 1973) they had two children; John, born in 1908 and died in 1909 and James, born in 1912. In 1911 they lived at 8, Princes Street, Daw Green, Dewsbury; on this census there is a Mary Lodge, born in 1909 who was later named on his pension record as adopted. Margaret was remarried on 10th February 1923 to Joseph Harding (born in 1893 and died in 1929).

He served as Private 6566 in the 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers enlisting in May 1915; he was taken prisoner in Mesopotamia on 29th April 1916 and died of sickness on 14th October 1916 in the Nisibin Prisoner of War Camp, on the border of Syria and modern-day Turkey. He is commemorated on a Special Memorial in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In April 1916 he was reported in the local press as missing in Mesopotamia. Two months later it was stated that "*News has been received that Pte. George Boothroyd, who has been missing for a number of weeks, is now a prisoner of war in the hands of the Turks, at Baghdad. He is a member of the Connaught Rangers, and his parents reside in Princess Street, Dewsbury*". This was probably inaccurate as in June 1916 his wife received a communication from the International Prisoners of War Agency of the Red Cross in Geneva that he was a prisoner in Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad.

Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery was begun in April 1917 and has been greatly enlarged since the end of the First World War by graves brought in from other burial grounds in Baghdad and northern Iraq, and from battlefields and cemeteries in Anatolia where Commonwealth prisoners of war were buried by the Turks. At present, 4,160 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War are commemorated by name in the cemetery, 273 Special Memorials represent men who were buried as prisoners of war in recorded graves which could not be found. Unidentified burials from this period number 2,729.

George is also commemorated as *George W Boothroyd* 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and as *George William Boothroyd* in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of
Private
G W Boothroyd

6566, 1st Bn., Connaught Rangers who died on 14 October 1916

Remembered with Honour
Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph taken by Hussam Saad
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