



Charles Greenwood Ellis 1898-1918

Charles was born in Dewsbury on 21st October 1898 and was baptised on 21st November 1898 at St. Philips Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His father was George Henry Ellis, a dyer born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1951. His mother was Eliza Harriett (nee Harte) born in Halifax in 1876 and died in 1949. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Bradford on 9th February 1895.

Their other children were; Fanny, born in 1895 and died in 1898, Clarence, born in 1896, Harry, born in 1901, Frank, born in 1903 and died in 1903 and Herbert Raymond, born in 1905.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 33, Woodville Terrace, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and later at Newland Street, Sandal, Wakefield.

Charles and his older brother Clarence both attended Eastborough Council School and were regulars at St. Philip's Church and Sunday School. He won the Hinchcliffe Scholarship at the age of 10 years and 5 months and was also awarded a County Minor, attending Wheelwright Grammar School for two years. He first worked at Messrs J.L. Thompson, Bradford Road, Dewsbury but left to work as a clerk at Joe Kaye and Sons, Shoddy Manufacturers. He was unmarried.

He enlisted on 23rd November 1916 and for a while was sent to the 13th Training Reserve Battalion at Brocton Camp, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire and then onto Sunderland where he spent some time as clerk to the Quartermaster Serjeant. He was described as a first class shot and was one of the marksmen of the Reserve Battalion. Now with the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) with the Service Number 93562 he was sent to the Western Front in November 1917 and served in France and Belgian Flanders. He was in charge of a Lewis Gun Section when he was killed in action in France on 26th March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing. Charles was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He had been badly wounded in a communication trench at Saint-Christ-Briost when the British retreated. A comrade with him was unhurt but taken prisoner and moved to Germany, where it was thought Charles may have been taken also. He was posted as missing in July 1918 but it was not until an article appeared in the Dewsbury District News on 28th of June 1919 that his death was confirmed. The article gives his rank as Lance Corporal but on his medal award records he is shown as a Private.

The Pozieres Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8th August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died between 21st March to 7th August 1918.

Charles's family had moved away from the Dewsbury area after the war and so he was not included on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park nor the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library. He was not named on the Wheelwright Grammar School Roll of Honour Memorial Plaque which was inaugurated in 1922, the reason for this omission is not known. The Memorial is now displayed in Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury after a fire severely damaged the Grammar School on 2nd April 2024. A newly created addenda panel now features Charles's name. He is also commemorated on the Memorial Plaque to former pupils in Eastborough School and the Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory Of
Private
CHARLES GREENWOOD ELLIS

Service Number: 93562

1st Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 26 March 1918 Age 19

Son of George Henry and Eliza H. Ellis, of 6, Newlands St., Sandal, Wakefield.

Remembered with Honour
POZIERES MEMORIAL

Panel 52 to 54.



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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
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COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

ELLIS C.G.