



Garnett Crawshaw 1884 – 1916

Garnett was born in Dewsbury on 28th July 1884. His father was Frank Crawshaw, an oil extractor born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1926. His mother was Mary Ann (née Jenkinson) born in Thurstonland near Huddersfield in 1853 and died in 1902. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 29th April 1876.

Their other children were; Charles William, born in 1876 and died in 1881, Harry, born in 1878, Annie, born in 1880 and died in 1881, Helvetia I, born in 1882 and died in 1884 and Helvetia II, born in 1887.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 18, Foundry Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 21, Jagger's Yard, Commonside, Hanging Heaton and later at 9, Hodgson Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Garnett worked in the mill industry as a Cloth Finisher and later as a Mill White Worker. Prior to enlisting he was employed by Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Dewsbury.

He enlisted on 28th August 1914 serving as Private 15222 in the 7th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 22nd July 1915. He was killed in action in the Ypres Salient on 14th March 1916. He was buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Garnett was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His father received the news in a letter to his Savile Town home from Second Lieutenant H. Burford Judge, as follows: *"It is with keen regret that I have to advise you of the death of your son, Pte. Crawshaw. He was a good soldier and a good comrade, ever trying to his job – too often a trying and difficult one- with that cheerful spirit which shows a good heart. It will be a consolation to you to know that his death was painless and instantaneous – that he died with a smile in his eyes and a jest on his lips. His comrades desire me to convey to you expressions of their sincerest sympathy and of their admiration of their pal, who played the game to the end".*

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.

Garnett is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and as *Garnet Crawshaw* in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of
Private
G Crawshaw

15222, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 14 March 1916 Age 32

Son of Frank Crawshaw, of 9, Hodgson Terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Bard Cottage Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

