



Jonathan Spendlove

Jonathan Spendlove was born in Gretton in 1893. He was the second son of Thomas Spendlove of Gretton and Adelaide Spendlove (nee James) of Pencraig, Herefordshire. Thomas & Adelaide had married in Camberwell in 1891.

Family History

Thomas Spendlove was a bootmaker. In 1901, Thomas & Adelaide were resident in Gretton with their three sons, Thomas, Jonathan & Frederick.

By 1911, Jonathan has joined his father in the bootmaking business. Thomas jnr. is working as a shop assistant in a gentlemen's outfitters. Frederick is still at school.

Records show that by 1914, Thomas Spendlove jnr. was resident in Bradford.

Military History

According to records, Jonathan Spendlove enlisted in Kettering on 7th September 1914. He was to serve as a Private (15936) in the 7th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. The battalion was formed in Northampton in September 1914. This was the battalion which included the former rugby player Edgar Mobbs, who was eventually to serve as the Battalion's Lieutenant Colonel.

According to Gretton Local History Society research, Jonathan was one of 15 Gretton men to enlist at the same time. He was to serve alongside Robert Henry Boon of Gretton (who himself was killed 13.11.15).

Private Spendlove arrived in France (Boulogne) on 1st September 1915 with the British Expeditionary Force. The battalion found itself involved early in the hostilities during the Battle of Loos, which commenced on the 25th September 1915. The battalion suffered heavy losses.

Private Spendlove was declared missing in action on 27th September 1915, twenty-six days after arriving in France. He was eventually presumed killed in action.

Private Spendlove is commemorated on the Loos Memorial and on the Gretton War Memorial.

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery.



Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle.

The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semicircular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice.

The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Sir Nevil Macready on 4 August 1930.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Gretton Local History Society

Lest We Forget

Jonathan Spendlove
of the Northamptonshire Regiment

d. 27th September 1915

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