



Martin Kelly

1892 – 1916



Martin was born at Thornton Street, Dewsbury, on 24th May 1892. His father was Thomas Kelly born County Roscommon, Ireland around 1857. His mother was Bridget (née McLaughlin) born in Killasser, County Mayo, Ireland around 1861 and died in 1899. They were married in Dewsbury in 1883.

His siblings included John Joseph , born 1883, Ellen, born 1887, Patrick Joseph born 18th June 1889, killed in action 8th October 1918, William, born 1897 and Honoria (Annie), born 1899 and died 1900.

Martin attended St Paulinus School and was an altar server at the church until he was 20 years-old. After leaving school he worked as a mill hand piecer at Headfield Mills, Savile Town.

He enlisted in April 1916 and went overseas that July serving as Private 26109 in the 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. All four Kelly boys served with the Armed Forces during the war, newspapers describing them as a patriotic family.

Martin was reported missing on 17th August 1916 following an engagement and, after several months elapsed, he was declared presumed dead on that date. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial in the Pas de Calais region of France. Martin was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is also 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 Our Lady and St Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

Martin Kelly

26109, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 17 August 1916 Age 24

Son of Thomas M. Kelly, of IO, Titus Hill, West Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

