



## **William Henry Austwick**

### **1896 - 1916**

William was born in Ackworth, Yorkshire in 1896. His father was George Arthur Austwick, a Quarryman/Machine minder, born in Wrenthorpe, Wakefield in 1869 and died in 1940. His mother was Catherine (nee Wharam) born in Castleford in 1873 and died in 1937. They were married on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1891 at St. Paul's Church, Alverthorpe, Wakefield.

Their other children were; Salome, born in Alverthorpe in 1892, Edith Mary, born in Ackworth in 1893 and died in 1893, Tom, born in Ackworth in 1894 and died in 1896, Tom (II), born in Ackworth in 1897 and died in 1898, John Richard, born in Ackworth in 1899 and was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> March 1918, Alfred, born in Ackworth in 1902, George, born in Ackworth in 1904, Edith Wharam, born in Dewsbury in 1907 and Arthur, born in Dewsbury in 1911.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Moor Top, Ackworth and in 1911 at 18, Russell Street, Dewsbury.

William was unmarried and in 1915 his occupation was given as a Piecener, which was literally the bottom rung of the textile trade requiring the operative to crawl under moving machinery to repair broken yarn.

He served as Private 20457 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Balkan Campaign on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1915, serving in Gallipoli and Egypt. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

William is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

# William Henry Austwick

20457, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

