



## **Cecil Lawrence Blake**

### **1896 - 1916**

Cecil was born in Gomersal on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1896. His father was James Blake, a Teamer of Horses born in Whitley Bridge near Kellington, Yorkshire in 1864 and died in 1945. His mother was Martha Lavinia (nee Lister) born in Whitley Bridge in 1864 and died in 1920. They were married in 1888.

Their other children were; Evelyn, born in 1888, Rowland William, born in 1891, Clarence Edwin, born in 1892 and served in World War 1, Muriel Gwendoline, born in 1895 and Reginald Gordon, born in Gomersal in 1899.

On the 1891 Census the family were living in Beck Lane, Heckmondwike, in 1901 at Roebuck Street, Heckmondwike, in 1911 at 10, Park Street, Heckmondwike and later at 15, Brunswick Street, Westborough, Dewsbury.

Cecil was a single man who worked as a Board Fastener in a joinery works.

He enlisted in 1915 into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 26142 and was sent to the Western Front in 1916. 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. Cecil was awarded 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.

Cecil is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as Cecil Blake on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

## Cecil Lawrence Blake

26142, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 19

Son of James William and Martha Lavina Blake, of 15, Brunswick St., Westborough, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

