



## **Norman Cleveland**

### **1895 - 1916**

Norman was born in Thornhill on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1894. His father was Robert Findley Cleveland, a Journeyman Tailor born in Hull in 1860 and died in 1926. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Brook) born in Thornhill in 1861 and died in 1936. They were married at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1881. For some reason his father was registered as "*Robert Finley*" but in 1885 the register was officially corrected to reflect his true full name.

Their other children were; John Arthur, born in 1882, Clara, born in 1883, Ernest, born in 1885, Mary, born in 1888, Willie, born in 1890, Herbert, born in 1892 and Marjorie, born in 1898. Both John Arthur and Ernest served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census their address is recorded as Combs, Thornhill, in 1901 at Combs Top, Thornhill, in 1911 at 35, Combs Road, Thornhill and later at 61, Prospect Terrace, Combs.

Norman was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Church of England School and Wheelwright Grammar School who in 1911 worked as a Clerk at a gas engineering works and later at Messrs Wormald and Walker's Dewsbury Mills.

He enlisted in May 1915 into the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers serving as Private 7077 and was sent to the Western Front on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1915. 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. Norman was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In August 1916 his parents received his wallet from an officer in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment who had found it on the battlefield; among the contents were family photographs and his father's address. His death was not officially confirmed to them until April 1917.

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.

Norman 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 St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill and on the Memorial Plaque to fallen pupils of Wheelwright Grammar School.

In Memory of

Private

## Norman Cleveland

7077, 11th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 01 July 1916 Age 21

Son of Robert Finlay Cleveland and Mary Ann Cleveland, of 61, Prospect Terrace, Combs, Thornhill,  
Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

