



## **Fred Duxbury**

### **1893 - 1916**

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was John William Duxbury, a Coal Miner born in Birstall in 1861 and died in 1921. His mother was Emma (nee Lister) born in Armley, Leeds in 1857 and died in 1922. They were married at St. Peter's Parish Church, Leeds on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1879.

Their other children were: Jane, born in Wortley, Leeds in 1880 and died in 1880, Arthur, born in Wortley in 1881 and died as a prisoner of war in Hannover, Germany on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1918, James, born in Holbeck, Leeds in 1885 and served in World War 1, John William, born in Ravensthorpe in 1888 and was killed in action on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1918, Mary Ann, born in Dewsbury in 1890, Chrissie, born in Ravensthorpe in 1896 and Kershaw, born in Ravensthorpe in 1898 and died in 1899.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 3, Topham Street, Wortley, in 1891 at 12, St. John's Street, Westtown, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe and later at 40, Fearnley Street, Westtown.

Fred was a single man who was educated at Ravensthorpe Church Day School worked as a Dyer's Labourer at Messrs H. Hamer and Sons woollen mill in Ravensthorpe

As a pre-war Territorial, he was recalled on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1914 serving as Private 3/1272 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front around August 1915. He received what was described as a "*nasty wound*" in the hand, for which he returned home for lengthy treatment. He returned to the front in 1916 and 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. Fred 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.

Fred is 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  
**Fred Duxbury**

3/1272, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 23

Son of Emma Duxbury, of West Town, Dewsbury. His two brothers John William and Arthur also died in service.

Remembered with Honour  
**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

DUXBURY F.