



Alfred Gildea

1882 – 1916

Alfred was born in Dewsbury on 29th December 1882. His father was Patrick Gildea (sometimes *Kildare/Kilday*), born in County Sligo, Ireland around 1849 and died in New York, USA in 1916. His mother was Catherine (nee Hart) born in Dewsbury in 1851 and died in 1929. They were married on the 29th of September 1872 at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; James*, born in 1872, Mary Elizabeth*, born in 1874 and died in 1874, Elizabeth Ann*, born in 1876, Michael Henry, born in 1878, John, born in 1880, Mary, born in 1886 and William, born in 1890. (*birth name registered as *Kildare*)

On the 1891 Census the family lived at the Prince Albert Inn, 80, Middle Road, Westtown where Patrick was the Publican, in 1901 at 28, Ingham Road, Westtown, when Patrick's occupation was a Card Cleaner in a Woollen Mill, in 1911 at 12, Whitworth Road, Westtown and later at 1, Granville Street, Flatts then 76, Thornhill Street, Fall Lane, Dewsbury.

Alfred was a single man and before enlistment worked as a Dyer's Labourer at Messrs Pickering and Greaves, Ravensthorpe. He spent some time working in the USA, where he lived with his brother James, sailing from Liverpool on the SS "*Baltic*" and landing at Ellis Island on 30th September 1904 but returned home before 1911. He was a talented Rugby League player appearing at the age of 18 for Dewsbury Celtic FC, then Heckmondwike FC, Dewsbury Northern Union second eleven and Normanton FC.

He enlisted in 1914 whilst his parents were visiting in the USA, where his father died in 1916. He served as Private 15739 in the 8th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 26th August 1915. He was killed in action on 1st 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. Alfred 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 20th 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.

Alfred is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park, on the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady & St Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

Alfred Gildea

15739, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

