



## Vernal Lowe

### 1883 – 1916

Vernal was born in Dewsbury on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1883. His father was Charles Green Lowe, a Teamer born in Heckmondwike in 1864 and died in 1939. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Wood) born in Heckmondwike in 1863 and died in 1937. They were married in 1883.

Their other children were; Watson, born in 1885 and died in 1885, Catherine, born in 1887 and died in 1890, Mary, born in 1888, Charles Robert, born in 1890 and died in 1891, Sergeant, born in 1893 and died in 1894, Harry, born in 1896 and Florrie, born in 1900 and died in 1900.

Vernal lived with his paternal grandparents Robert Bowman and Catherine Lowe; on the 1891 and 1901 Census they lived at 6, Quarry Road, Westtown, his occupation in 1901 is recorded as a Groom, he has not been found on the 1911 Census on which his parents are recorded as living at different addresses; Charles lived with son Harry in Bradbury Street, Ravensthorpe and Mary Jane with daughter Mary in Victoria Road, Dewsbury.

Vernal was a single man who was educated at Westtown Day Schools, prior to enlistment he worked for Mr. Peter Ellis, Contractor, Savile Town.

He attested into the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1902 and was discharged as unfit in 1905. He was recalled on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1914 serving as Private 11340 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front around May 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. Vernal was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His obituary in the "*Dewsbury District News*" on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916 gave his family's address as Lacy's Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and described him as; "*a man of splendid physique, standing over six feet high.*"

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.

Vernal is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and on the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Memorial Plaque in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown.

In Memory of

Private

## Vernal Lowe

11340, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 33

Son of Mrs. Mary Jane Lowe, of 28A, Lacy Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



