



George Geoffrey Phillips

1897 - 1916

George was born in Batley on 12th September 1897. His father was Henry Phillips, a Schoolmaster and later a Headmaster born in Bermondsey, London in 1860. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Lloyd) born in Blockley, Worcestershire in 1858. They were married in 1882 in Shipston, Worcestershire.

Their other children were; Annie, born in Peckham, London in 1884, Edith Alice, born in Camberwell, London in 1885, Henry Douglas Lloyd, born in Dewsbury in 1890 and George Edward, born in Dewsbury in 1895 and died in 1897.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 6, Bank Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 10, Highgate Terrace, Dewsbury; Henry was the headmaster of the Victoria Jubilee Council School. On George's army pension record card from the 1920's, his mother's address was given as 4, Northwick Terrace, Blockley which was her home town.

George's occupation is unknown as he was still a schoolboy on the 1911 Census.

He enlisted into the 15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) serving as Private 15/1273 and was posted to Egypt on 11th December 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.

His parents had appeals for information about his whereabouts published in the local newspapers in July and August 1916, but it was not until April 1917 that they received official confirmation of his death.

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.

George is also 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

George Geoffrey Phillips

15/1273, 15th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

