Alfred Hubert Cowley
1894 - 1916

Hubert, as he was known, was born in Dewsbury in 1894. His father was John Cowley, a Platelayer for a railway company and later a Greengrocer born in North Thoresby, Lincolnshire in 1856 and died in 1929. His mother was Mary Ann (née Blackburn) born in Welton-le-Wold, Lincolnshire in 1857 and died in 1918. They were married at St. Martin's Church, Welton-le-Wold on 18th May 1880.

Their other children were; John William, born in Benniworth, Lincolnshire in 1881, Arthur, born in Methley, Yorkshire in 1883 and served in World War 1 and Sydney, born in Methley in 1886 and died in 1886.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 33, Lawson Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 29, Woodville Terrace, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 2, Woodville Terrace. They later moved to 15, Leeds Road where John owned a greengrocery shop.

Hubert was a single man, who worked as the manager of his father's greengrocery shop. He was connected to St. Philip's Church on Leeds Road.

He served as Private 5490 in the 1st/5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, enlisting in March 1916 and was sent to the Western Front in June. He was wounded during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September whilst the Regiment, as part of the 149th Division attacked the Salient around Thiepval village an area known as the "Pope's Nose". He was taken to the 2nd Stationary Hospital in Abbeville and telegrams were sent home as his condition deteriorated, the second one informing the family of his death on 11th September 1916. He is buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Hubert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Abbeville is about 80 kilometres south of Boulogne. For much of the First World War, Abbeville was headquarters of the Commonwealth lines of communication and No.3 BRCS, No.5 and No.2 Stationary Hospitals were stationed there variously from October 1914 to January 1920. The communal cemetery was used for burials from November 1914 to September 1916, the earliest being made among the French military graves. The extension was begun in September 1916. Abbeville Communal Cemetery contains 774 Commonwealth burials of First World War. The Extension contains 1,754 First World War burials.

Hubert is commemorated as A. H. Cowley 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 from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

Alfred Hubert Cowley

5490, 1st/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 11 September 1916 Age 21

Son of John and Mary Cowley, of 15, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Abbeville Communal Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission