



## **William Mooney**

### **1895 – 1916**

William was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was Richard Mooney, a Tailor born in Barnsley in 1870 and died in 1950 His mother was Sarah Ann (née Newsome) born in Dewsbury in 1875 and died in 1938. They were married at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1894.

Their other children were; Fred, born in 1897 and served in the Royal Navy in World War 1, May, born in 1899 and Elsie, born in 1906.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records they lived at Elizabeth Place, Battye Street, Dewsbury and later at 39, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and then Acton Road, Marton, Blackpool.

William was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and Dewsbury Parish Church School and was attached to St. Philip's Church; in 1911 he worked as a hurrier in a coal mine but prior to enlistment he was employed by Mr. Geo. Richardson, Blacksmith, Manor Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in June 1915 serving as Private 22334 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on the first day of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. William 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.

William is also commemorated 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 which was moved to Dewsbury Minster when the Church was closed and as *Willie Mooney* on the Memorial Plaque in Eastborough School to former pupils.

In Memory of

Private

**William Mooney**

22334, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 15 September 1916 Age 21

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Mooney, of 39, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

