



Sidney Reginald Brooke

1893 - 1916

Sidney was born in Louth, Lincolnshire on 27th April 1893 and baptised at St. Philip's Church Dewsbury on 2nd April 1900. His father was Charles George Brooke, a Coal Agent and later a glass works labourer and then a General Dealer born in Dewsbury in 1846 and died in 1927. His mother was Hannah (née Coppin) born in Louth in 1846 and died in 1926. They were married in Louth in 1872.

Their other children, all born in Louth were; an unnamed male child, born in 1873 and died in 1873, George William, born in 1875 and served in World War 1, James, born in 1876, Florence Mary, born in 1878, Charles, born in 1879, Arthur Thomas, born in 1881 and served in World War 1, Nellie, born in 1882, Rose May, born in 1883 and Ernest, born in 1884.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 45, Ramsgate, Louth, in 1891 at 31, Thornton Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1901 at 12, Dale Street, Thornhill Lees. On the 1911 census Sidney was living with his mother and brothers Arthur and Ernest at the home of their married sister Nellie and her husband William Bache Field at 18, Travis Lacy Terrace, Dewsbury. Sidney worked as a wool dyer. He was at one time employed by Messrs Hemingway and Bindschadler, Dyers of Church Street, Dewsbury.

He enlisted pre-war in 1913 serving as Private 9837 in the 20th Hussars. They were a cavalry regiment who were stationed in Colchester, Essex at the outbreak of war. They were immediately mobilised and their contingent of 24 officers and 519 other ranks embarked for France and Flanders on 16th August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force, described by the Kaiser as "*a contemptible little army*". They took part in the first cavalry action of the war and were then involved in the retreat from Mons, the Battles of the Marne and the Aisne and the first Battle of Ypres. He was home for the last time on furlough in August 1915. He was killed in action near Hulluch, France on 27th January 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Sidney was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On 27th January 1916 the Unit War Diary records they were in the front line at Vermelles in France when between 8am and 9am, heavy strafing resulted in five killed including Sidney Brooke, and 3 others were wounded.

His brother-in-law William Bache Field, in whose house he was living in 1911 was killed in action on 8th October 1918, serving with the Royal Naval Division.

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located 1 kilometre west of the village. The Loos Memorial commemorates 20,599 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay, from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war.

Sydney is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Sidney Brooke* on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Sidney Brooke

9837, 20th Hussars who died on 27 January 1916

Remembered with Honour

Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

