



## **Frank Rigg**

### **1895 – 1917**

Frank was born in Dewsbury on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1895 and baptised on the same day at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church due to danger of death. His father was John Rigg, a carpenter born in Dewsbury in 1852 and died in 1931. His mother was Mary Ellen (nee Dodds) born in Normanby, Yorkshire in 1857 and died in 1943. They were married on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1883.

Their other children were; Agnes, born in 1883, Ethel, born in 1885, Edith, born in 1887, John Henry (Harry) born in 1889 and died in 1891, Ernest, born in 1892 and served in World War 1, Ada, born in 1891 and died in 1891 and Willie, born in 1900 and died in 1901.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 37/39 Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury, in 1911 at Greenwood's Yard, Westtown and later at Manor Road, Westtown.

Frank was a single man who attended Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and was an old boy of the School. He worked as a joiner's apprentice for Wilson Brothers, Webster Hill, Dewsbury, his father's business.

He served as Private 18333 in "A" Company. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers. The reasons for his joining up were given in the local press when reporting his death "*One day while kicking a ball about with other lads on the highway a woman said to them 'You are cowards. You ought to be in the Army.' He went home and told his father, adding, 'I shan't be called a coward anymore.'*" He attested in February 1915 and was sent to Gallipoli on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1915 and took part in the landings at Suvla Bay and was part of the evacuation; in December 1915 he was in hospital at Mudros on the island of Lemnos with enteric fever. He was sent to the Western Front on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1916 and was killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917 at the launch of the second battle of the Scarpe during the Battle of Arras. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Frank was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

A letter from a Private T. Airey, written in a London hospital conveyed the sad news to Frank's father: "*Poor Rigg was killed on a holiday Monday – I think it was Easter. Tell his dad that he died a hero, and was always a brave lad. He was the best of pals.*"

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Frank 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 in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Frank Rigg**

18333, "A" Coy. 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 23 April 1917 Age 21

Son of John and Mary Ellen Rigg, of Manor Rd., West Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Arras Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

RIGG F