



William Cawthorne

1896-1917

William was born in Dewsbury on 24th April 1896 and baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 18th May that same year. His father was Ellis Cawthorne, variously a furnace man, a lamplighter and a stoker born in West Ardsley in 1870 and died in 1912. His mother was Mary Ellen (nee Clarkson) born in Ravensthorpe in 1870 and died in 1919. They were married on 21st December 1889 at St. Saviour's Church.

Their other children were; John, who was William's a twin brother born in 1896 and died in 1906, Elsie, born in 1898 and Annie, born in 1908.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 60, Town Street, Thornhill Lees, in 1911 at Queen Street, Thornhill Lees and later at 66, Queen Street, Ravensthorpe.

William was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and attended the Sunday school. He worked as a piecer (joining together broken threads) in the textile firm of Messrs G.H. Hirst, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 21011 but was declared unfit for overseas service. Following an operation he was placed on the reserve list and returned home. He was sent to the Western Front at the end of July 1916 and transferred into the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers serving as Private 40930 in the 27th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion. He was killed in action on 25th April 1917 during the Battle of Arras, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 7th 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.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

William Cawthorne

40930, 27th (Tyneside Irish) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 25 April 1917

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

