



Frederick Eddison (Fred) Eastwood

1894 – 1917

Fred was born in Ossett in 1894. His father was Frederick Eastwood, a Publican and later a Cloth Fuller born in Ossett in 1857 and died in 1911. His mother was Emma (nee Armitage) born in Netherpton near Wakefield in 1865 and died in 1911. They were married on 21st October 1884 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were; Eric Norman, born in Netherpton in 1886 and died in 1904, Herman, born in Netherpton in 1887, William Gordon, born in Ossett in 1890, Nellie, born in Ossett in 1892, Harry Ross, born in Ossett in 1894 and was killed in action 25th August 1918, Dora, born in Ravensthorpe in 1899, Mary, born in Ravensthorpe in 1903 and Winnie, born in Ravensthorpe in 1905. Herman and William also served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at the Globe Inn, Bank Street, Ossett, in 1901 at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at 4, Sunset View, Ravensthorpe and later at 21, Duke Street, Ravensthorpe.

Fred was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's School and attended the Church. He worked as a blanket finisher at Messrs Wormald and Walker Blanket Manufacturers Dewsbury and was particularly keen on the Ravensthorpe Cycling Club

He enlisted in November 1914 alongside his brother Harry (240719). He served as Private 240715 in the 2nd/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was killed in action during the Battle of Arras on 3rd May 1917 at the beginning of the third Battle of the Scarpe. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The 62nd Division had attacked at 3.45 am with an artillery barrage but failed to penetrate the enemy front line because of heavy machine gun fire, and the fact that the recent dry weather had caused huge dust clouds to rise up and cover the battlefield. Initially the attack was thought to have been a success but by 9.00 am lack of progress had caused the artillery to be brought back to their secondary objectives. It was left to Harry to inform his parents of the bad news that Fred had not returned from the initial attack and wrote on the 3rd May that Fred was wounded and missing, after a shell hole in which Fred and others were sheltering received a direct hit, Harry went on to say that he thought his brother had been taken prisoner. Two days later he wrote again to say he believed that none of the men had got back and again speculated that Fred had been taken prisoner.

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.

Fred 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

Frederick Eddison Eastwood

240715, 2nd/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 May 1917 Age 20

Son of Frederick and Emma Eastwood, of 28, Duke St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

EASTWOOD F.E.