



## **Fred Barker**

### **1894 – 1917**

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1894. His father was Marshall Barker, a carpet weaver born in Dewsbury in 1845 and died in 1929. His mother was Mary Auty Stott (nee Exley) who was born in 1855 and died in 1910. They were married in 1891.

They had another son, Jack, born in 1892 and served in the Royal Flying Corps during World War 1.

Marshall was first married on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1867 to Harriet Whitwam (born in 1846 and died in 1880). Their children were; Mary Hannah Barker, born in 1868, Seth Ainley Barker, born in 1870, Albert Victor Barker, born in 1871, Louisa Victoria Barker, born in 1876 and Amy Barker, born in 1879. He was remarried on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1886 to Bessy Cockroft (born in 1851 and died in 1887).

Mary was previously married in 1877 to James Stott (born in 1856 and died in 1887). Their children were; Tom Auty Stott, born in 1881, Sarah Auty Stott, born in 1884, Randolph Exley Auty Stott, born in 1886.

On the 1901 & 1911 Census the family lived at 54, George Street, Dewsbury and later at 19, Day's Yard, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe.

Fred was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School. He worked as a yarn spinner at George Wright's Mill, Dale Street, Batley Carr.

He enlisted on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1916 serving as Private 35369 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in action by a shell on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1917 in the Ypres Salient. He was buried in Oxford Road Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The cemetery is located to the North-East of the town of Ieper (Ypres). Oxford Road was the name given to a road running behind the support trenches, from a point west of the village of Wieltje south-eastwards to the Potijze-Zonnebeke road. Plot I is the original Oxford Road Cemetery and was used by the units fighting on this front from August 1917 to April 1918. In October 1917, another cemetery, known as Oxford Road Cemetery No.2, was started close by and now forms Plot V of the cemetery as it appears today. After the Armistice, scattered graves from the battlefields east and south-east of Ypres were brought into the cemetery. There are now 851 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 297 of the burials are unidentified and special memorials commemorate three casualties known to have been buried in the cemetery, but whose graves could not be located.

Fred is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

## Fred Barker

35369, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 June 1917

Son of Marshall Barker, of 19, Day's Yard, Huddersfield Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Oxford Road Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Photograph courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.