



## **William Edgar Freeman**

### **1883 - 1917**

William was born in Retford, Nottinghamshire in 1883. His father was Henry R. Freeman born in Ossington, Nottinghamshire around 1845. His mother was Ann (nee Rollinson) born in Retford around 1849. They were married in 1870

Their other children were; Susannah, born in 1873, Emily, born in 1875, John Robert, born in 1888, George James, born in 1881, Annie born in 1886 and Sarah Louisa, born in 1893.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Clarborough near Retford.

William was married to Jane Ann Haigh (born in Dewsbury in 1874 and died in 1939) on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1900 at All Saints Church, Batley. They had a daughter, Annie, born in 1901. His occupation was recorded as a pit sinker.

The marriage was an unhappy one as William had served short prison terms at Wakefield prison in 1904 (drunken assault on wife), 1905, 1906 and 1909 all associated with drink.

On the 1901 Census William is living at 13, Grafton Street, Batley with his wife Jane Ann, his occupation was recorded as a pit sinker. In 1911 he was living at Oldroyd Square, Carr Street, Batley recorded as *Edgar Freeman* with a Lizzie Hornsby as Housekeeper, his occupation is shown as a miner (hewer); Jane Ann is living with her parents and her daughter Annie at 4, Broomhall Terrace, Warwick Road, Batley. Lizzie Hornsby (born in 1879 and died in 1940) was his common-law wife and was the beneficiary of his Soldiers Effects.

He enlisted on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1915, initially into the West Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 21614 but he transferred five weeks later to the Machine Gun Corps serving as Private 44739 and was sent to the Western Front on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1916. He was killed in action in Belgian Flanders on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and who have no known grave.

William is also remembered on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

## William Edgar Freeman

44739, 17th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 14 June 1917 Age 34

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

FREEMAN W. E.