



## **Fred Firth**

### **1882 – 1917**

Fred was born in Dewsbury on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1882. His father was Joseph Firth, a card cleaner born in Dewsbury in 1841 and died in 1916. His mother was Emma (nee Senior) born in Dewsbury in 1840 and died in 1912. They were married in All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1860.

According to the 1911 census, they had 14 children of which 6 were living at the time of the census. Their other children who could be traced were; Louisa, born in 1859, Charlotte, born in 1864, William, born in 1866, Senior, born in 1869 and died in 1880, Elisabeth, born in 1871, Ellen, born in 1873 and died in 1873, Joseph, born in 1875, Harry, born in 1877 and Tom, born in 1880.

On the 1881 Census they lived at Caxton Square, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 5, Milton Road, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 21, South Street, Dewsbury.

Fred was married in 1913 to Rose Hannah Corbett (born in 1888 and died in 1957). They lived at 110, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury and did not have any children. On the 1911 census, Fred worked as a Mill Hand/Rag Grinder for a Shoddy Manufacturer. Prior to enlistment he worked at Messrs Eastwood and Nephews Warehouse on Bradford Road, Dewsbury. According to the reports of his death in both the *Dewsbury Reporter* and the *Dewsbury and District News* on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1917, Fred was a keen sportsman. He was a member of the Heavy Woollen District Association Football Committee; an official umpire at the Dewsbury and Savile Cricket Club and a member of the Gladstone Liberal Club.

He enlisted in 1916 serving as Private 58119 in the 175<sup>th</sup> Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). After 8 months training at North Ferriby and Grantham he was sent out to the Western Front. He died of wounds in a French Field Hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and is buried in Metz-En-Couture Communal Cemetery British Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Metz-en-Couture is a village situated in the extreme south-eastern corner of the Department of the Pas-de-Calais. The Communal Cemetery British Extension was begun in April 1917, and used until March, 1918, and two graves were added in the following September. These original burials were made by Field Ambulances and fighting units. More burials were added after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the immediate neighbourhood. There are now nearly 500, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, almost 50 are unidentified.

Fred is 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 from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Dewsbury now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

**Fred Firth**

58119, 175th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 07 July 1917 Age 34

Son of the late Joseph and Emma Firth; husband of Rose Hannah Firth, of 110, Crackenedge Lane,  
Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

**Metz-En-Couture Communal Cemetery British Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.