



Fred Ripley **1891 – 1917**

Fred was born in Rastrick, Brighouse in 1891 and was baptised in St Matthew's Church, Rastrick on 31st March 1895. His father was Sam Ripley, a Stone Miner born in Brighouse in 1857 and died in 1903. His mother was Mary Ada (nee Beaumont) born in Elland in 1858 and died in 1928. They were married in St. John the Baptist Church, Halifax on 6th August 1877.

Their other children were; Albert Edward, born in 1878, George Henry, born in 1881, Lily Ann, born in 1888, Florrie, born in 1895 and Clarence Edgar, born in 1899.

In 1891 they lived at Lower Edge, Rastrick and in 1901 at 32, Church Street, Elland.

Mary was remarried in 1904 to William Riley (born in 1869 and died in 1937).

In 1911 Fred was living with his older sister, Lily (now Mrs. Harold Hodgson) at 50, Closes Road, Rastrick. His mother, stepfather and two youngest siblings lived at 10, Closes Road.

Fred worked as a Waste Shaker for Messrs William Greenwood and Sons at Providence Mills, Earlsheaton and previously worked as a Blacksmith's Striker. He was a member of the Earlsheaton Central Working Men's Club and was well-known locally as a singer of comic songs and visited many local clubs as a comedian. He was married to Hilda Rastrick (born in 1892 and died in 1970) at the United Methodist Church in Bailiff Bridge near Brighouse on 3rd February 1915; they had a son, Ernest, born in 1917. They lived at Exley's Yard, Earlsheaton but at the time of Fred's death, Hilda lived at 1, George Mount, George Street, Rastrick and later at 55, Oddfellows Buildings, Bailiff Bridge.

Hilda was remarried in 1930 to Harold Senior (born in 1885 and died in 1956) they lived at 120, Town Green, Earlsheaton.

He attested on 6th September 1915 serving as Private 82597 in the 173rd Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). According to the report of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 4th August 1917, he died in a Field Ambulance in Estaires on 23rd July 1917. He had been leaving the trenches for a rest camp, when a shell burst at his side and he was fatally wounded in five places. He had only been with the company for two weeks. He was buried in Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, Nord, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Estaires is a town and commune about 11 kilometres west of Armentieres. Estaires town was occupied by French cavalry on 15th October 1914, and passed at once into British hands. On 10th April 1918 it was captured by the enemy, after an obstinate defence by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division; and it was finally retaken by British troops at the beginning of September 1918. The town was a Field Ambulance centre as early as November 1914, and later the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station was posted in it. Estaires Communal Cemetery was used for British burials from the early days of November 1914 to June 1917. Estaires Communal Cemetery Extension was used from April 1917 to April 1918, and again in September-November 1918. There are 875 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war here, 63 of which 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 in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

In Memory of

Private

Fred Ripley

82597, 173rd Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 23 July 1917 Age 26

Son of Sam and Ada Ripley, of Brighthouse; husband of Hilda Ripley, of 55, Oddfellows" Buildings, Bailiff Bridge, Brighthouse, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

