



George Arthur Pickles

1884 – 1917

George was born in Briestfield, Dewsbury on 24th March 1884. His father was also George Pickles, a labourer born in Whitley Lower in 1830 and died in 1907. His mother was Ann (nee Stanley) born in Kirkheaton in 1836 and died in 1936 aged 100. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 20th July 1856.

Their other children who can be positively identified were; Rose Ann, born in 1858, Isabella, born in 1859, Florence Amelia, born in 1861 and died in 1862, Aaron, born in 1862, Leah, born in 1864, Oldfield (birth name registered as *Howfield*) born in 1866, Ezekiel, born in 1868, Julia, born in 1870, Asa, born in 1872, and died in 1884, Florence (Florry) born in 1874, Stanley, born in 1876, and Hilda, born in 1879.

On all the Census Records from 1861 to 1911 they lived at Briestfield.

George was educated at Whitley Church Day School and was a chorister at St. Mary and St. Michael's Church, Whitley Lower. He was married to Mary Ann Buckley (born in Mirfield in 1882 and died in 1945) on 14th April 1906 at Christ the King Church, Battyeford, Mirfield. In 1911 he was living with his wife at 143, Dale Street, Thornhill Lees, and later at 47, John Street, Ravensthorpe. They had a daughter, Adelaide born in Mirfield on 8th October 1917, two months after his death. George was a wheelwright and joiner at Ingham's Colliery in Thornhill Lees before being employed by Messrs Morton, Son & Company, Engineers, Brooklyn Mills, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 12th July 1915 as *George Pickles*, serving as Sapper 108309 in the 106th Field Company, Royal Engineers. He served in France until early August 1916 when he was invalided home with trench foot and gas poisoning; he received treatment in Royds Hospital, Huddersfield for a number of months and then returned to base in Newark, from where he was sent back to the Western Front on 22nd April 1917. On the 4th and 5th of August during the Battle of Passchendaele, the 106th were under orders to lay 'a double duckboard track'. He was killed in action by a splinter from a German shell on 5th August 1917, one of four men who lost their lives. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing 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 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

George is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and as *G.A. Pickles* in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Library and as *George A. Pickles* on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Sapper
G Pickles

108309, 106th Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 05 August 1917

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

PICKLES G.