



Fred Hey

1888 - 1917

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1888. His father was Job Hey, a labourer born in Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1918. His mother was Susan (nee Auty) born in West Ardsley in 1862 and died in 1901. They were married on 24th July 1880 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield. Susan is recorded as Hannah on the 1901 Census; she is recorded as Susannah on the Baptism record of her daughter Lily and may have elected to use this name.

Their other children were; Mary, born in 1880 and died in 1880, Arthur, born in 1882, Annie, born in 1883, Lily, born in 1885, Jane Eliza, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Florrie, born in 1890, Clement, born in 1892, Willie, born in 1894, Emily, born in 1898 and Edith, born in 1900.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1901 at Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe. After the death of Susan the family became divided. In 1911 Fred is living at Hoyles Buildings, Thornhill Lees with his sisters Lily (now Mrs. Taylor Fenton) and Emily.

Fred was a single man and who worked as a labourer above ground at a colliery and later as a tenterer at Marshall, Kaye and Marshall's Woollen Mill in Ravensthorpe. Prior to enlistment he was working in Huddersfield.

He enlisted in 1915 in the 1st/5th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) serving as Private 241239 and was posted to the Western Front in February 1916; he was twice wounded during the Battle of the Somme, first in the leg on 14th July and then in the back during the 2nd September attack on the "Pope's Nose". He was home on leave for Christmas 1916; then served at home until returning to the Front on 17th July 1917. The War Diary of the 1st/5th Battalion states that they were heavily shelled during the Battle of Passchendaele on the evening of 10th October it is probable that he was injured during this bombardment. He was evacuated from the front line via a casualty clearing station and arrived later that day at one of the base hospitals at Wimereux on the French coast. It was from this hospital that the Matron wrote to his sister, Mrs. Annie Heaton to say that he had arrived badly injured with wounds to shoulders and leg, which had to be amputated. He died of his wounds on 14th October 1917 and was buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Private
Fred Hey

241239, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 14 October 1917 Age 29

Son of Job and Susan Hey, of Commercial St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Wimereux Communal Cemetery



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.