



Frank Hargreaves

1899-1918

Frank was born in Dewsbury on February 18th 1899. His father was Bentley Hargreaves, a Dyer's Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1859 and died in 1943. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Neilson) born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1951. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 23rd June 1894.

Their other children were; Anne, born in 1894, Jeanette, born in 1897, Kate, born in 1901, Neilson, born in 1903, William, born in 1907 and Ellen, born in 1910.

On the 1899 Census the family lived at Webster Hill, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 14, Water Lane, Dewsbury.

Frank was a single man who was educated at Victoria Jubilee Council School and attended Dewsbury Parish Church and Sunday school; he was attached to the Boys' Brigade, with whom he had been in camp on two occasions. He worked for Messrs Boothroyd and Chandler, Rag Merchants, who themselves served in World War 1.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in 1917 into the Staffordshire Yeomanry with the Service Number 22293 and later transferred on 1st April 1918 to the XV Corps Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps serving as Private 22650 and was sent to the Western Front on 21st April 1918. He died in a hospital at St. Omer, France on 1st September 1918 from wounds received in action that same day. A previous communication stated that he had been wounded by a gunshot in the back. He was buried in a shared grave in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Frank was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

St. Omer was the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914 to March 1916. The town was a considerable hospital centre with the 4th, 10th, 7th Canadian, 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7th, 58th (Scottish) and 59th (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17th, 18th and 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations all stationed there at some time during the war. St. Omer suffered air raids in November 1917 and May 1918, with serious loss of life. The cemetery takes its names from the triangular cemetery of the St. Omer garrison, properly called the Souvenir Cemetery (Cimetiere du Souvenir Francais) which is located next to the War Cemetery. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery contains 2,874 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Frank is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Frank Hargreaves

22650, XV Corps Cyclist Bn., Army Cyclist Corps who died on 01 September 1918 Age 19

Son of Bentley and Elizabeth Hargreaves, of 14, Water Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.