



Duncan Alfred Littlewood

1898-1918

Duncan was born in Dewsbury in 1898. His father was Thomas Alfred Littlewood, a woollen spinner born in Honley, Huddersfield in 1861. His mother was Margaret (nee Pemberton) born in Hunslet, Leeds in 1867. They were married at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Hunslet on 3rd June 1897.

They also had two daughters; Susan Margaret, born in 1901 and Mary Violet, born in 1910.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Charlotte Terrace, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 32, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury.

Duncan was a single man who worked as a Piecener in a woollen mill.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 41061 in the 7th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. He was killed in action in France on 27th May 1918 during the First Day of the 3rd Battle of the Aisne (*Operation Blücher-Yorck*), the third stage of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Duncan was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The town of Soissons stands on the left bank of the River Aisne, approximately 100 kilometres north-east of Paris. For three and a half years from September 1914, this part of the front was held by French forces and the city remained within the range of German artillery. Here, at the end of May 1918, they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. The Allied counter attack drove back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave.

Duncan is also 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, Leeds Road, now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

Duncan Alfred Littlewood

41061, 7th Bn., Leicestershire Regiment who died on 27 May 1918 Age 19

Son of Thomas Alfred and Margaret Littlewood, of 32, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Soissons Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

LITTLEWOOD D. A.