



Fred Byrne

1885-1918

Fred was born in Thornhill Lees in 1885. His father was John Byrne, a glassblower born in Thornhill Lees in 1857 and died in 1899. His mother was Amelia Ann (nee Pollard) born in Batley in 1857 and died in 1938. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 4th June 1881.

Their other children were; Elizabeth Ann, born in 1882 and died in 1882, Edith, born in 1887, Arthur, born in 1890, Beatrice, born in 1892, Alice, born in 1896 and Percy, born in 1897 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census records the family were living at George Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at Albert Street, Batley Carr. Their surname is spelt *Burns* on all three records.

Fred worked as a coal miner/hewer at Low Laithes Colliery, Ossett. He was married in 1905 to Annie Ellen Maloney (born in Batley in 1883 and died in 1923) they lived at 23, Villiers Street, Batley and had seven children; John, born in 1906 and died in 1906, Ann, born in 1907 and died in 1907, Mary Elizabeth born in 1908, Frederick, born in 1910, Amelia Ann, born in 1912 and died in 1915, Edith, born in 1913 and died in 1913 and Thomas, born in 1914.

He enlisted in 1915 serving as Private 15095 in the 9th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in action in France on 22nd March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing. Fred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

The Pozieres Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8th August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died between 21st March to 7th August 1918.

Fred is also 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

Fred Byrne

15095, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 22 March 1918 Age 32

Son of Mrs. Amelia Byrne, of Dewsbury; husband of the late Annie Byrne (nee Maloney).

Remembered with Honour

Pozieres Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

