



Fred Healey (Healy)

1897-1918

Fred was born in Batley in 1897. His father was James Henry Healey, a Railway Signalman and later a Confectionery Packer who was born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1922. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Field) born in Barnsley in 1864 and died in 1939. They were married on 28th May 1885 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

They had two more children; Herbert, born in 1886 and Mary Jane, born in 1890.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 12, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 8, Upper Peel Street, Crackenedge, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 11, Blenheim Place, Eightlands, Dewsbury.

Fred was educated at Victoria Jubilee Council School and was employed by Messrs Slade and Bullock, Wholesale Confectioners and also worked during the evenings as a Limelight Hand and Programme Seller at the Dewsbury Empire Theatre.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in May 1916 serving as Private 30125 in the 6th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in September of that year, coming home on leave in March 1918. He was killed in action in France on 16th September 1918, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In his last letter home he wrote; "*We shall win this war, and I hope we shall not be long now, as we are getting fed-up with fighting.*"

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

Fred is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library. His surname is spelt *Healy* on both.

In Memory of
Private
Fred Healey

30125, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 September 1918

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

