



George Kershaw

1888-1918

George was born in Thornhill Lees on 15th January 1888 and baptised on 17th February 1888 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was James Kershaw, a Glass Bottle Maker, born in Horbury in 1867 and died in 1924. His mother was Emma (nee Hirst) born in Thornhill Lees in 1867 and died in 1938. They were married on 17th September 1887 at Holy Innocents Church.

Their other children were; Alice, born in 1890, Edgar, born in 1892, Fred, born in 1894, Louisa, born in 1896 and Dorothy, born in 1906. The two brothers served as Sappers in the Royal Engineers in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at the home of Emma's parents at Lees Terrace, Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at Forrest Cottages, Lees Hall Road and in 1911 at 6, Lees Terrace, Thornhill Lees.

George was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church of England School and Lees Moor Sunday school; in 1901 he was an Errand Boy for a Chemist, in 1911 he was a Joiner and later moved to live and work in Manchester to pursue this occupation.

He enlisted in Manchester in November 1914 into the 23rd Battalion Manchester Regiment with the Service Number 21932 and was sent to the Western Front in 1916 serving in the 12th (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Battalion of the Manchester Regiment rising to the rank of Serjeant. He was killed in action near Thiepval Ridge, Somme, France on 24th August 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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.

George 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 in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of
Serjeant
George Kershaw

21932, 12th (Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Bn, Manchester Regiment who died on 24 August 1918

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

