



## **Fred Handley**

### **1891-1918**

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was Henry (Harry) Handley, a teamer born in Messingham, Lincolnshire in 1863 and died in 1932. His mother was Jane (nee Newsome) born in Earlsheaton in 1865 and died in 1903. They were married on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1886 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.

Their other children were; Albert, born in 1887, Annie Louisa, born in 1894, Elizabeth May, born in 1896 and Nellie, born in 1898.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1901 at 16, Thornleigh, Thornhill Lees.

Harry was remarried in 1904 to a widow, Anne Jennings (born in 1860) who had two sons; Herman Jennings, born in 1888 and Willie Jennings, born in 1891.

In 1911 they lived at 64, Thornhill Street, Savile Town.

Fred was married to Hilda Armitage (born in 1890 and died in 1966) on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1912 and worked as a Fetter; when he enlisted in 1916 he was a Spinner employed by Messrs John Turner and Company, Savile Town. He was also a member of Thornhill Lees Working Men's Club. They had two children; Arnold born in 1912 and Phyllis born in 1914. Hilda was remarried on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1924 at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green to Arthur Chatwood (born in 1894 and died in 1957); they had a daughter, Alice born later that year. They lived at 6, Thomas Street, Thornhill Lees.

He had been a pre-war territorial for five years and enlisted in June 1916 serving as Private 37303 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in December of that same year. He was wounded in the right shoulder in May 1917 which hospitalised him for a time, he was wounded again in August with injuries to the left arm and a knee; he was finally allowed home leave in January 1918 returning on the 25<sup>th</sup> of that Month. He died in a field hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1918 from wounds received in action the previous day and was buried in Maroeuil British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Maroeuil is a village in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, 6 kilometres north-west of Arras, between the roads to Houdain and Aubigny. The British Cemetery lies at the end of a track running north from the road to Bray and Ecoivres and was begun by the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division when Commonwealth forces took over the Arras front in March 1916 and it retained its association with that division until the summer of 1918. The cemetery was protected from observation by the crest of the hill behind it and whenever possible, bodies were brought back to it from the front line by tramway. Maroeuil British Cemetery contains 563 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Fred is 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 and on the Dewsbury Parish School War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

# Fred Handley

37303, 11th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 20 February 1918 Age 26

Husband of H. Handley, of 6, Thomas St., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Maroeuil British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

