



Fred Auty

1891-1918

Fred was born in Whitley in 1891. His father was Richard Auty, a weaver and later a timekeeper, born in Dewsbury in 1856 and died in 1928. His mother was Emma (nee Peace) born in Whitley in 1857 and died in 1937. They were married on 3rd November 1883 in St. Mary's Parish Church, Mirfield.

Their other children who could be traced were; Peace, born in Dewsbury in 1884 and died in 1884, Percy, born in Dewsbury in 1887 and died in 1888, Alfred, born in Diggle in 1889, Joseph, born in Diggle in 1895 and died in 1895. They declared that they had six children of which four had died by 1911.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Grove Cottages, Diggle near Saddleworth and in 1901 and 1911 at Field Street, Ravensthorpe.

Fred was a regular attendee at the Ravensthorpe Congregational Church and Sunday school, he was a member of the Church Institute and a keen cricketer for several years. He worked as a packer for Messrs James Walker and Son, Butt End Mills, Mirfield and was married to Mary Helen Fletcher (born in the USA around 1894 and died in 1924) on 15th December 1916 at the Knowle Methodist Chapel, Mirfield; they had a daughter Constance, born in 1918.

He was conscripted in June 1917 into the 2nd/7th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front in December of that same year. He was killed in action near Bucquoy, France on 27th March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His wife and parents received a letter on 4th April 1918 from the Rev. J.R. Buxton, Chaplain to the Forces informing them of his death.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 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 and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

Fred Auty

205461, 2nd/7th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 27 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

