



## **George Arnold Lightowler**

### **1898-1918**

George was born in Thornhill on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1898. His father was Ernest Lightowler, a Coal Miner born in Overton near Wakefield in 1876 and died in 1954. His mother was Mary (nee Jessop) born in Thornhill in 1874 and died in 1927. They were married on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1898 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were; Helena Mary, born in 1903, Harry Charles, born in 1905, Norris, born in 1908 and Leonard born in 1911.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at Edge Road, Thornhill Edge and later at 47, The Common, Thornhill.

George was a single man who was educated at the Walker Council School, Thornhill, and was a member of the Primitive Methodist choir and the Thornhill Church Institute. He worked as a clerk in the Dewsbury office of the Pioneers` Industrial Society.

He was conscripted on March 29<sup>th</sup> 1917 into the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 46376 and was sent to the Western Front on December 20<sup>th</sup> of that same year. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 1918 the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion was disbanded and he was transferred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Entrenching Battalion. He was killed in action in France on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were reburied in 1920 in Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, Aisne, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

An article in the Dewsbury District News dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 1918 stated that he was hit by a sniper went on to say that he was buried in an orchard close to where he fell. A Captain said of him; "*He was a gallant fellow, and died bravely, fighting for his Country.*"

Chauny is a commune 22 miles west of Laon. In Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension there are just over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The majority of them died in 1918; most of the rest died in September, 1914.

George 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 St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

# George Arnold Lightowler

46376, 16th Entrenching Bn., late 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 31 March 1918

Age 19

Remembered with Honour

Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.