



Isaac France

1896 – 1915

Isaac was born in Dewsbury on 15th July 1896. His father was Willie France, an Engineer's Fitter born in Ravensthorpe in 1859 and died in 1937. His mother was Eliza (nee Jones) born in Wolverhampton in 1861 and died in 1932. They were married at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 25th November 1883.

Their other children were; Martha, born in 1884, Edith Annie, born in 1886, Harry, born in 1889, Clara, born in 1890 and died in 1893 and Hilda, born in 1899.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at lived at 74, Spedding's Buildings, Leeds Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 12, William Street, Leeds Road; Isaac was living with his aunt, Annie France at 23, Clarendon Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire. On the 1911 Census all the family were living at 5, Well Street, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Isaac was a single man who was educated at Eastborough School and attended the Ebenezer Congregational Church and Leeds Road Baptist Church Young Men's Class and also played for the church football team. He worked for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons at Calder Mill and later for Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton at Ridings Colliery.

He enlisted in Dewsbury and was sent to the Western Front on 5th May 1915 serving as Private 21006 in the 1st Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was wounded on two occasions, his cigarette case saving his life the second time. He was killed in action on 4th October 1915 during the latter stages of the Battle of Loos. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Isaac was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the main Lens to Bethune road. The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay, from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war. Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle. The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

Isaac 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 Memorial Plaque in Eastborough School to former pupils.

In Memory of

Private

Isaac France

21006, 1st Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 04 October 1915

Remembered with Honour

Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

