



Fred Smith

1890 – 1915

Fred was born in Fleetwood, Lancashire on 21st September 1890. His true birth name was *Frederick William Haigh*. His mother was Martha Haigh, born in Woolley near Wakefield in 1869 and died in 1930. She was married in Halifax in 1892 to James Smith, a Cattle Dealer and later a Teamer born in Lightcliffe near Brighouse in 1859 and died in 1930.

Their children were; John (Jack), born in 1892, Nellie, born in 1896, Jenny, born in 1898, Robert, born in 1899, Harry, born in 1903, Katie, born in 1907, Arthur, born in 1908 and Benjamin, born in 1911.

On the 1891 Census Fred is living in Woolley with the family of his maternal grandparents William and Elizabeth Haigh.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 194, Halifax Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse, in 1911 at 16, Day Street, Ravensthorpe and later at 21, Hebble Street, Ravensthorpe.

Fred was a single man who worked in the Pressing Department at Marshall, Kaye, Marshall, woollen manufacturers in Ravensthorpe. He attended St. Saviour's Church was also a member of Ravensthorpe United football team.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 16550, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and was sent to the Western Front on 11th September 1915. He was killed in action on 27th September 1915 during the Battle of Loos. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Although he was listed as missing on what was eventually his official date of death, his parents clung to the hope that he was still alive, as articles in the local newspapers from colleagues who fought with him on the day, gave varied accounts of him having been wounded and attended to. Sadly, on 5th December 1915 an official notification was received confirming his death.

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located 1 kilometre west of the village. The Loos Memorial commemorates 20,599 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.

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
Lance Corporal
Fred Smith

16550, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 September 1915 Age 25

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, of 21, Hebble St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

