



George Firth

1898-1918

George was born in Dewsbury on 14th December 1898 and baptised on 24th September 1900 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His father was John Henry Firth, a joiner and later a coal miner born in Dewsbury in 1878. His mother was Annie Elizabeth (nee Field) born in Dewsbury in 1880. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 13th February 1897.

They had another son; Fred, born in 1897 and died in 1899.

On the 1901 Census the family were living in Chickenley Lane, but in 1911 George and his mother were living with Annie's brother, John Field and his family at 49, Wood Hill, Dewsbury; his father was living at 135, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury with his mother, Esther Firth. At the time of George's death, his mother was living at 6, Bagshaw Street, Flatts, Dewsbury. John Henry Firth had served seven terms of imprisonment, mainly for theft of livestock but on one occasion for deserting his wife.

George was a single man who was educated at Batley Carr National School and worked for Messrs J and R Midwood, Flock Manufacturers, Hirstland Mill, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in October 1916 serving as Private 93852 in the 10th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). He was gassed in February 1918 but recovered and came home on leave in June. After returning to the front he was killed in action in France on 8th November 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

George is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library

In Memory of
Private
George Firth

93852, 10th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 08 November 1918

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

