



Friend Rylah 1891-1918

Friend was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was Edwin Rylah, a Blanket Raiser born in Earlsheaton in 1862 and died in 1909 (death recorded as *Edward Rylah*). His mother was Ann (nee Clegg) born in Wortley near Sheffield in 1861 and died in 1946. They were married on 14th August 1886 at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Edith, born in 1887 and died in 1887 (birth and death surnames recorded as *Riley*) and Walter, born in 1890 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 8, Fall Lane, Dewsbury and later at 16, Fall Lane.

Friend was a single man who was educated at St. Matthew's School, Westtown and attended St. Matthew's Church; in 1911 his occupation was a Clerk at a Cloth Manufacturers, Messrs John Fenton and Sons with whom he was employed prior to enlistment.

He joined up in April 1917 serving as Pioneer 281723 in "P" Cable Section of the Royal Engineers and after a period of home leave in November, he was sent to the Western Front in December 1917. He died in hospital at Trouville, France from bronchial pneumonia and influenza (Spanish Flu) on 24th November 1918 and was buried in Tourgeville Military Cemetery, Calvados, France. Friend was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Tourgeville is a commune adjoining the town of Deauville, which is located on the coast at the mouth of the River Touques, just south of Le Havre. The Military Cemetery is situated north of the village. The 14th Convalescent Depot was at Trouville in October 1917 and the Trouville Hospital Area - which later comprised the 72nd, 73rd and 74th General Hospitals, and the 13th, 14th and 15th Convalescent Depots - was established in February 1918. Tourgeville Military Cemetery contains 210 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Friend 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 Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury and on the War Memorial Plaque in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown.

In Memory of

Pioneer

Friend Rylah

281723, "P" Cable Sect., Royal Engineers who died on 24 November 1918 Age 27

Son of Edwin and Annie Rylah, of 16, Fall Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Tourgeville Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

