



Frank Whittaker

1878 – 1915

Frank was born in Wilsden near Bingley in 1878; his birth name was recorded as *Francis*. His father was James Whittaker, a General Labourer born in Burley-in-Wharfedale in 1843 and died in 1882. His mother was Eleanor/Ellen Fishwick (nee Rigby) born in Evenwood, County Durham in 1847 and died in 1903. They were married on 28th August 1876 at St. Matthew's Church, Wilsden and had another son; John William, born in 1881.

On the 1881 Census the family are living at Spring Hill, Wilsden.

Ellen was previously married to John Fishwick (born in 1842 and died in 1871) on 8th October 1866 at St. Anne's Chapel, Auckland-St. Andrew, County Durham. They had three children; Elizabeth Ann, born in 1866, George, born in 1868 and John, born in 1871. Ellen was remarried on 3rd August 1889 at St. Peter's Church, Bradford to a widower, William Rawnsley (born in 1823 and died in 1892). She married for a fourth time on 7th September 1893 to a widower, Robinson Marr Brigg (born in 1846 and died in 1920) at St. Luke's Church, Manningham, Bradford.

On the 1891 census, Frank is recorded as being an apprentice shoemaker at St. George's Catholic Certified Industrial School in West Derby, Liverpool. He enlisted in Halifax on 19th July 1895 serving in the Duke of Wellingtons (West Riding Regiment) and from 1898 in the 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment with the Service Number 6167 until February 1902. He served on Malta from September 1895 to July 1898 when he was sent to Egypt until October 1898 where he took part in the Nile Expedition, being awarded the Queen's Sudan Medal with Clasp for Khartoum and finally the East Indies until April 1902 when he was transferred to the Reserves until his discharge in 1907.

He was married to Lucy Tarlington (born in Bradford in 1877 and died in 1957) on 16th August 1902. In 1911 they lived at Grove House, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe and later at South Street, Dewsbury, then 7, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury; they did not have any children. He worked for eight years for Bradford Corporation Trams and then five years as a Caretaker and Telephone Clerk at the Yorkshire Electric Power Company's office on Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Keighley in September 1914 serving as Private 9577 in the 9th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was sent to the Gallipoli Campaign on 11th July 1915 and was killed in action on 9th August 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsular, Turkey. Frank was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who were lost at sea, in one of the troopships sunk off Gallipoli. Over 20,000 names are commemorated on this memorial.

Frank 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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and on the War Memorial on Main Street, Wilsden.

In Memory of

Private

Frank Whittaker

9577, 9th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 09 August 1915

Remembered with Honour

Helles Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

WHITTAKER F.