



## **Fred Morton**

### **1895-1918**

Fred was born in Mount Pleasant, Batley in 1895. His father was George France Morton, a Hand Loom Weaver born in Holmfirth in 1863 and died in 1939. His mother was Emma (nee Armitage) born in Skelmanthorpe near Huddersfield in 1863 and died in 1918. They were married on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1884 at All Saints Church, Batley.

Their other children were: Amy, born in 1885 and died in 1894, Ben, born in 1888 and was killed in action on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and Ann, born in 1892.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 41, Brearley Street, Batley, in 1901 at 13, Belvedere Road, Batley and in 1911 at 82, Wharfe Street, Savile Town.

Fred was a single man who was educated at Purlwell Council School in Batley. With his parents and family he was connected to the Gospel Hall Sunday school and was a member of the Young Men's Class. He was employed as a Pattern Weaver by Messrs G. H. Hirst and Company, Savile Town.

He enlisted in March 1915 serving as Private 27861 in the 7<sup>th</sup> and later the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in December 1916, coming home on leave in January 1918. He died of wounds sustained in action in France on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918 and was buried in a small hospital cemetery. In November 1920 he was reburied in Auberchicourt British Cemetery, Nord, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Auberchicourt is a village 11.5 Kilometers east of Douai on the road to Valenciennes. Auberchicourt British Cemetery is 1 Km west of the village on the north side of the road to Erchin. The village was occupied by Commonwealth troops in October 1918. The cemetery was begun at the end of that month and used until February 1919 while the 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations were in the neighbourhood. These original graves are in Plot I, but the cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves (mainly of 1918-19, but also of August 1914) were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from smaller burial grounds. Auberchicourt British Cemetery contains 288 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 19 of the burials are unidentified and special memorials are erected to one soldier from the United Kingdom but there is a special memorial to one casualty known to be buried among them.

Fred 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 War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Fred Morton**

27861, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 03 November 1918 Age 23

Son of George France Morton and Emma Morton, of 82, Wharf St., Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Auberchicourt British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of David Moutter.