



## **William Wright**

### **c.1897-1918**

William was born in Hammersmith, Middlesex around 1897. His year of birth has to be assumed, as nothing can be traced about his early life including his parents and family as there were many men in that district with the same name and none of whom can be positively matched to him.

He must have arrived in Briestfield between 1911 (he does not appear on that year's census) and 1915, when he enlisted. His obituary stated that he was attached to Briestfield Wesleyan Sunday School and was aged 21 at the time of his death.

William was a boarder with the family of Mr and Mrs Henry Watson, a coal miner living at Ivy Cottage, Briestfield. He was employed by Messrs Jaggar's at Grange Ash Colliery, Grange Moor; he may have worked underground but was possibly employed in a clerical capacity.

He enlisted in Leeds in May 1915 into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 22662 and was later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers serving as Private 27921 in both the 9<sup>th</sup> and later the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was reportedly wounded on three occasions before being killed in action in France on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal although these were all returned to the issuing office who sought permission to dispose of them. Similarly, his effects and war gratuity were not issued.

He had initially made a Soldier's Will on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1918 in favour of a Miss Amy Crawshaw of Mirfield but this was later scribbled out and endorsed "Cancelled". On 19<sup>th</sup> May 1919 the War Office refused to execute the Will unless a Grant of Representation was made.

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

William 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 St. Mary and St. Michael's Church, Whitley Lower.

In Memory of  
Private

# William Wright

27921, 11th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 28 October 1918

Remembered with Honour  
*Vis-En-Artois Memorial*



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

