



Fred Illingworth

1898-1918

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1898. His father was Newsome Illingworth, a Blanket Raiser born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1943. His mother was Edith (nee Swift) born in Dewsbury in 1877 and died in 1953. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 28th May 1898.

They also had a daughter, May, born in 1905.

On the 1901 Census Fred is living with his maternal grandparents, William and Susan Swift at 5, Back Barber Street, Dewsbury; Newsome and Edith are living at 14, Alfred Place, Dewsbury, in 1911 all the family are living at 14, Alfred Place and later at 9, Willans Road, Dewsbury.

Fred was a single man who attended Carlton Road Council School and was connected with the Unity Church and attended the Sunday school, for a time he was a member of Dewsbury Liberal Club. He was employed as a cutter in for Mr. Joe Wilson, clothing manufacturer, Mill Road and Corporation Street.

He enlisted in November 1916 serving as Private 93866 in the 1st/ 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front in December 1917. He was killed in action in the Aisne Region of France on 3rd October 1918 and was buried in Bellicourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was expected home on leave two weeks after his death.

Bellicourt is a village 13 Kms north of St. Quentin and 28 Kms south of Cambrai. On 29th September – 2nd October 1918, the Battle of the St. Quentin Canal was fought. The 46th (North Midland) Division stormed the Hindenburg Line at Bellenglise and captured 4,000 prisoners and 70 guns. The 30th United States Division captured Bellicourt and Nauroy, which were cleared by the 5th Australian Division. The North Midland and Australian dead of this engagement fill most of the graves in Bellicourt British Cemetery. The cemetery was made after the battle, when 73 dead were buried there. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice, when graves were brought from the surrounding battlefields and smaller cemeteries.

Fred is 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

Fred Illingworth

93866, 1st/5th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 03 October 1918 Age 19

Only son of Newsome and Edith Illingworth, of 9, Willans Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Bellicourt British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

