



## **Fred Vickers**

### **1882 – 1915**

Fred was born at Britannia Road, Morley on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1882. His mother was Esther Vickers, born in Leeds in 1859 and died in 1925.

On the 1891 Census he is living with his mother and grandmother Lydia Vickers at Whitley Road, Thornhill; in 1901 and 1911 Fred is away in the army but the family home is at Bristfield Road, Thornhill.

Fred was a pupil at Thornhill Church of England School and after leaving he worked as a Coal Miner; he attested into the army in Warrington on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1900 serving as Private 8866 in The King's (Liverpool) Regiment and was discharged on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1912. He saw service in the South African War and had also been stationed in the east at the time of the Russo-Japanese war. He had also been based at Rangoon in Burma and on Malta. He was sentenced to one year in a military prison for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1902 but was granted 9 months remission and was released on 16<sup>th</sup> July. He was permitted to extend his service so that he could complete 8 years with the colours and in 1907 this was extended to 12 years. Apparently he was addicted to drink but as one officer put it: "*a good man for the job*". Whilst with the Liverpool Regiment he was awarded the Queens South Africa Medal with clasps for Transvaal and Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

After leaving the army, Fred went to Thornhill to live with his mother and grandmother, and worked at Wood Pit as a miner. Lydia died in 1914.

On the outbreak of war he re-enlisted as Private 312020 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1914. He was killed in action at Hill 60 near Ypres on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1915; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Fred was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Fred is also 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 Vickers**

312020, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 April 1915

Remembered with Honour  
**Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**VICKERS F.**