



## **Willie Hemingway**

### **1894 – 1915**

Willie was born in Dewsbury on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1894 and baptised 24<sup>th</sup> October 1894 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury His father was Harry Hemingway born in 1868 and died in 1936. His mother was Jane Eliza (nee Healey) born in 1872 and died in 1927. They were married at All Saints Church on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1894.

Their other children were; Arthur, born in 1896, Ernest, born in 1889, Tom Wilson, born in 1901 and John Hampshire, born in 1908.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 15, Lower Peel Street, Batley Carr, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 33, Lower Peel Street.

Willie worked as a Porter at Dewsbury for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

He joined the local Dewsbury Territorials in 1910 and received the star for 4 years service. During the war, he served as Private 1634 with "F" Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was in camp at Whitby at the outbreak of war and after training at Doncaster, Gainsborough and York he was sent to the Western Front on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1915 being attached to the headquarters staff as a Pioneer. He died of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1915, having been admitted to the No. 10 Stationary Hospital in St Omer, France two days previously. He was buried in a joint grave in Longuenesse Souvenir Cemetery, St Omer, Pas-de-Calais, France. Willie was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

St. Omer was the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914 to March 1916. The town was a considerable hospital centre with the 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian, 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) and 59<sup>th</sup> (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Stations all stationed there at some time during the war. St. Omer suffered air raids in November 1917 and May 1918, with serious loss of life. The cemetery takes its names from the triangular cemetery of the St. Omer garrison, properly called the Souvenir Cemetery (Cimetiere du Souvenir Francais) which is located next to the War Cemetery. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery contains 2,874 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Willie 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

## William Hemingway

1634, "F" Coy. 4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 12 August 1915 Age 20

Son of Harry and Jane Hemingway, of 6, Beatson St., Ashworth Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.