



William Henry Kay

1883-1914

William was born at 2, Clayfield Place, Woodhouse, Leeds on 5th September 1883. His father was Charles Henry Kay, a Goods Packer born in Leeds in 1863 and died in 1926. His mother was Beatrice Amelia (nee Robinson) born in Tadcaster, Yorkshire in 1865 and died in 1937. They were married at St. Michael's Church, Buslingtorpe, Leeds on 9th April 1883.

They had another son; Sydney Thomas Tinsley, born in Leeds in 1902.

On the 1891 Census, Beatrice is recorded as a boarder with William and her mother Mary Robinson at 62, Evelyn Street, Sheepscar, Leeds, but in 1901 she is recorded as head at the same address, along with her mother; in 1911 Charles, Beatrice and Sydney are living at 22, Sheepscar Terrace, Leeds.

Beatrice was remarried in 1930 to Ralph Brough (born in 1859 and died in 1944).

On the 1911 Census William's occupation was recorded as a Draper's Porter. He was married in 1912 to Gertrude Gracey (born in 1880 and died in 1963); they had one child, William Leslie, born in 1913. William later worked as a Shunter for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway company at Mirfield prior to his recall to the colours. They lived at 16, Aire Street, Ravensthorpe.

He had enlisted as a reservist in the Yorkshire Regiment on 20th April 1900 and discharged in May 1900 due to his "misstatement as to age" He re-enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers towards the end of 1902 and served in South Africa after the end of the Boer War. He was recalled at the outbreak of WW1 on 5th August 1914 serving as Private 9110 in the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front on 15th August 1914; he was killed in action on 14th September 1914 in the fighting around La Rouge Maison Farm near Vailly on the River Aisne. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France. William was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

It was almost two years before an account of his death appeared in the local press; on 24th June 1916 the Dewsbury District News reported that Mrs Henry Kay of Ravensthorpe had been informed that her husband had been presumed killed after being reported missing.

La Ferte-sous-Jouarre is a small town 66 kilometres to the east of Paris, located on the main road running east from Paris. The Memorial is situated in a small park on the south-western edge of the town, on the south bank of the River Marne. The La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial to the Missing commemorates 3,740 officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who fell at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne between the end of August and early October 1914 and have no known graves.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

William Henry Kay

9110, 1st Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 14 September 1914 Age 30

Son of Charles Henry and Beatrice Kay; husband of Gertrude Kay, of 16, Aire St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

