



## **Michael Neville**

### **1892 - 1917**

Michael was born in Dewsbury on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1892 and baptised at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on the 24<sup>th</sup> of that same month. His mother was Ann Neville, born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1917. On the 1901 Census Michael and his mother lived at 18, Hemingway's Yard, Westtown. Ann was married to Hiram Hemingway (born in 1865 and died in 1923) on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1901; they had a son, George Hemingway, born in 1902.

On the 1911 Census the family lived at 19, Black Boy Yard, High Street, Westtown.

Michael was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church, playing for the church football team. He worked as a Piecer in a Woollen Mill for Mr J. Kaye and Company, Savile Town. He was married to Margaret Hoyles (born in Bolton in 1889 and died in 1971) at St. Pauls Church, Kersal, Salford on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1917. They lived at Crabtree Cottage, Rainsough, Prestwich, Manchester. Margaret was remarried in 1923 to James Holden (born in 1898 and died in 1971), they did not have any children.

After serving with the Territorials for four years he joined the Special Reserve in 1913 and was recalled at the outbreak of war as Private 3/1270 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1914. He was transferred into the 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment as Private 376960 on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1916. An article appeared in the Dewsbury District News on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1914; "*Unofficial news has this week been received of the death in action of Private Michael Neville, Westtown, Dewsbury, a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*". This was later proved to be incorrect and in April 1915 he was wounded in the right arm and wrist. Later in the year he was sent to Egypt, returning to the Western Front towards the end of 1916. He was killed in action on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1917 in an engagement near Givenchy-Les-la-Bassee, 8 kilometres east of Bethune, France at a place called the Red Dragon Crater, in which one of his fellow soldiers Walter Mills was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. He was buried in Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Nord, France 5 kilometres west of where he fell. Michael was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp and Roses, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Gorre is a hamlet 2.5 kilometres north of Beuvry, and 4 kilometres east of Bethune. The chateau at Gorre was occupied early in the war by troops serving with the British Expeditionary Force and the Indian Corps, and the cemeteries, located in the south-east corner of original the chateau grounds, were begun in the autumn of 1914. The Indian section of the cemetery was closed in October 1915, shortly before the Indian infantry divisions left France for redeployment to the Middle East. There are now over 930 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated here.

Michael is 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and on the Prestwich War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

**M Neville**

376960, 1st/10th Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 11 December 1917 Age 25

Husband of Margaret Neville, of Crabtree Cottage, Rainsough, Prestwich, Manchester.

Remembered with Honour

**Gorre British and Indian Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

