



Edward Rourke

1880 – 1917

Edward was born in Dewsbury on 29th November 1880 and baptised at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 3rd February 1881. His father was Richard Rourke, born in Dewsbury around 1839 and died in 1912. His mother was Margaret (nee Vizard) born in County Mayo, Ireland around 1843. They were married in Wakefield in 1863.

Their other children who could be traced were; Thomas, born in 1864, Ellen, born in 1865, Michael, born in 1867, Catherine, born in 1872, John, born in 1876 and served in World War 1, James, born in 1878 and Margaret, born in 1883. On the 1911 Census they state 11 children were born to the marriage with 9 still alive.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 15, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 19, South Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury. At the time of Edward's death his mother lived at 3, Kent Street, Boothroyd Lane.

Edward was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and worked as a woollen warper at Aldams Mill.

As a reservist who had fought in the Boer War, he was called up at the outbreak of war in August 1914 and sent to the Western Front on 8th September 1914, serving in the 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment with the Service Number 6309 rising to the rank of Lance-Corporal. During the retreat from Mons he was wounded, a bullet entering one shoulder and coming out of the other. He returned to the front after recovering and came home on 10 days leave at Easter 1916. He was killed in action on 11th August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. He and a comrade were just leaving one trench to report to another when a shell burst adjacent to them, his colleague, Private Kavanagh survived and wrote to tell Edward's mother that "*poor Ted*" was severely struck and died within a few minutes. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Edward was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing 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 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Edward 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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

Edward Rourke

6309, 2nd Bn., Leinster Regiment who died on 11 August 1917 Age 36

Son of the late Richard and Margaret Rourke.

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

ROURKE E.