



Jack Whiteley

1899-1918

Jack was born in Golcar, Huddersfield in 1899. His father was Fenton Whiteley, a Foreman Cloth Manufacturer born in Golcar in 1863 and died in 1926. His mother was Ann Eliza (nee Mellish) born in Wimbourne, Dorset in 1863 and died in 1948. They were married on the 18th December 1886 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Golcar.

Their other children were; William, born in 1887, Allen, born in 1889, Ethel born in 1892 and Ida, born in 1894.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Royd Street, Golcar, in 1901 at Royd House Avenue, Golcar, in 1911 at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury and later at 272, Scout Hill Road, Ravensthorpe.

Jack was a single man whose occupation was a textile worker. He also attended Dewsbury School of Art and the quality of his work was noted in the Dewsbury Reporter; *"His work is very remarkable, particularly as regards artistic drawing, design and colouring"*.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 66609 in the 1st/6th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front in March 1918. He was killed in action near Estaires in Northern France on 11th April 1918 during the 2nd Battle of the Lys; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Jack was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Ploegsteert Memorial stands in Berks Cemetery Extension, which is located 12.5 Kms south of Ypres (now Ieper). The memorial commemorates the 11,349 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who have no known grave and died in the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille. Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere.

Jack 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

Jack Whiteley

66609, 1st/6th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 11 April 1918 Age 18

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fenton Whiteley, of 273, Scout Hill, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Ploegsteert Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

WHITELEY J.