



Alfred Oldroyd

1888 – 1916

Alfred was born in Dewsbury in 1888. His father was George Henry Oldroyd, sometimes George Edward, a Card Cleaner born in Dewsbury in 1856 and died in 1913. His mother was Emma Jane (nee Lee) born in Batley in 1858 and died in 1899. They were married on 6th December 1879 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Mary Wilcock, born in 1880, George Arthur, born in 1883 and Annie Elizabeth, born in 1890. On all their marriage records, their father is recorded as George Edward Oldroyd.

On the 1891 Census the family lived in Vulcan Road, Dewsbury and in 1891 at 20, Cross Street, Dewsbury. The 1901 census records George Oldroyd, a chemical worker age 44 living at 5, Wilson's Yard, Castlegate, Huddersfield, he is shown as married and his wife is recorded as Catherine Oldroyd age 31; also at this address is Alfred Oldroyd, age 13, an errand boy in a chemical works and Annie Oldroyd, age 11. By time of the 1911 Census, Mary, George Arthur and Annie had married. Their father is recorded as George Edward Oldroyd, a fettler for a woollen manufacturer married for 12 years to Rachel Cathron (sic) Oldroyd age 40 and place of birth Manchester; they lived at Fearnley Buildings, Old Bank, Dewsbury. No marriage record has been found for them.

There is a record of a marriage on 22nd July 1905 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury between an Alfred Oldroyd, age 17 occupation glass blower whose father is named as George Edward Oldroyd, occupation piecer and a Mary Fisher age 19, a spinster with no occupation shown. He enlisted into the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1909. The 1911 Ireland Census records him stationed at the Victoria Barracks in Cork, Ireland. The CWGC notes that he served in China so he must at some stage have transferred to the 1st Battalion who were stationed in Hong Kong and Singapore prior to the outbreak of WW1. Mary Oldroyd is recorded on the 1911 UK Census living at 13, Lawson Street with her sister Elizabeth Fisher age 16. It is not known whether Mary and Alfred had separated prior to his service in WW1. His Soldiers Effects were left to his sister Annie (now Mrs. Edward Law) and the address given for his entry in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour is 10, Upper Cross Street, Dewsbury where Annie lived.

He served as Private 10158 in the 8th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was posted to the Western Front on 15th January 1915. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Alfred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Alfred is also 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

Alfred Oldroyd

10158, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 29

Served in China.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

OLDROYD A