



## **William Chatten**

### **1897 - 1916**

William was born in Dewsbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1887. His father was Alfred Chatten, a Destructor Stoker working for the Borough Council born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1940. His mother was Martha Anne (nee Heald) born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1933. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1893.

Their other children were; Elizabeth, born in 1894 and died in 1894, Edith born in 1895, Selina, born in 1899 and died in 1900, May, born in 1902, Alfred, born in 1904, Arthur, born in 1907 and died in 1907 and Mary, born in 1910.

On the Census Records for 1901 and 1911 the family lived at 28, High Street, Westtown.

William was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and attended Moorlands Wesleyan Sunday school; he was involved with the Boy's Brigade and later the Boy Scout movement. Upon leaving school he was employed by Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons Ltd at Calder Mills, then at the factory of Messrs G. and J. Stubley, Batley and finally in the printing department of Messrs J. Fenton and Sons, Headfield Mills, Savile Town. From boyhood he had expressed a keen desire to join the Royal Navy but his father had disapproved of this.

He enlisted in 1914 into the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 3/1579 and was sent to the Western Front on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1915. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> 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. William 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill and on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of  
Private  
**William Chatten**

3/1579, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 19

Son of Alfred and Martha Ann Chatten, of 28, High St., West Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

CHATTEN W.