



Nathan Henry Lightfoot

1892 - 1916

Nathan was born at Binnington Wold near Malton, Yorkshire in 1892. His father was Alfred Lightfoot, a Carter working for the Dewsbury Corporation Sanitary Department born in Sawdon, Yorkshire in 1864 and died in 1928. His mother was Mary Elizabeth (née Head) born at Hutton Cranswick, near Drifffield, Yorkshire in 1868 and died in 1930. They were married in Scarborough in 1891.

Their other children were; Charles Osborne, born in 1895 and served in World War 1, Herbert, born in 1897, John William, born in 1899, Mabel Annie, born in 1901 and died in 1920, Lewis, born in 1903 and died in 1905 and Arthur, born in 1905.

Mary had a daughter; Alice Head, born in 1890.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 22, Wood Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 24, Halliley Street, Flatts, Dewsbury.

Nathan was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School and attended Dewsbury Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, playing football for Moorlands Wesleyan FC. He worked as a Piecener in the woollen mill of Mr. Mark Day.

He enlisted in March 1915 serving as Private 26600 in the 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front in July 1916. He was killed on the 7th October 1916 during what was to be the start of a phase of the Battle of the Somme referred to as the Battle of the Transloy Ridges from 7th to 20th October. His friend and neighbour Harry Townend stated in a letter sent home that Nathan was killed as he got out of a trench, and that he would try to find out where he was buried. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Nathan was awarded 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 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Nathan 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 Dewsbury Parish Church School War Memorial 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

Nathan Henry Lightfoot

26600, 9th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 07 October 1916 Age 24

Son of Alfred and Mary Elizabeth Lightfoot, of 26, Halliley St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

LIGHTFOOT N. H.