



George Garrick Sykes

1891-1918

George was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was Joseph Sykes, a Glass Blower born in Batley Carr in 1860 and died in 1893. His mother was Mary Ellen (nee Milner) born in Batley Carr in 1859 and died in 1919. They were married in 1881.

Their other children were; Sarah, born in 1883, Tamar, born in 1885, Clara, born in 1887 and died in 1889, Florence Alice, born in 1889 and Joe Milner, born in 1893 and died in 1896.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 7, Blenheim Place, Dewsbury.

Mary Ellen was remarried in 1899 to a widower Joseph Thornton (born in Halifax in 1861 and died in 1931) they had a daughter, Mary Ellen, born in 1901.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 72, Bradford Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Meadow House, 6, Meadow Fields, Hartley Street, Dewsbury.

George was a single man who was employed as a Cloth Finisher.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 201982 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in December 1915. He was killed in action in Belgian Flanders on 29th April 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His mother received a letter from a Corporal of his Battalion with the news of his death, he wrote; *"He was instantaneously killed by a sniper, being shot through the head. He suffered no pain whatsoever. I buried him myself and put up a cross to identify his grave. He was in my section and was chief firer of the Lewis Gun, and as we had been together when he was out before I always found him a good and keen soldier. He died fighting for his King and Country, Accept my deepest sympathy"*

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

George 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

George Garrick Sykes

201982, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 29 April 1918

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

