



Austin Frain

1899-1918

Austin was born in Pontefract in 1899. His father was John Frain, a Coal Miner born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1913. His mother was Ann (nee Halloran) born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1941. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Westtown, Dewsbury in 1885.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in Dewsbury in 1886, James Edward, born in Dewsbury in 1888 and died of wounds at Pontefract 28th October 1918, John Joseph, born in Dewsbury in 1890 and served in World War 1, Mary, born in Pontefract in 1892, Ellen, born in Pontefract in 1895, Arthur, born in Pontefract in 1897 and served in World War 1 and Annie Elizabeth, born in Pontefract in 1903.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records, the family lived at 21, Smyth Street, Pontefract and in 1911 at 30, Back New Street, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Austin was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Sunday school. He was employed by a company of Haulage Contractors in Wakefield.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 30th August 1917 serving as Private 61864 in the 16th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in April 1918. He died in a Casualty Clearing Station at Daours, France on 16th August 1918 from wounds sustained in action during the Battle of Amiens and was buried in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Austin was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Daours is a village in the Department of the Somme, about 10 kilometres east of Amiens and is north-west of Villers-Bretonneux. The preparations for the Somme offensive of July 1916 brought a group of casualty clearing stations to Daours. The extension to the communal cemetery was opened and the first burials made between June and November 1916. The Allied advance in the spring of 1917 took the hospitals with it, and no further burials were made in the cemetery until April 1918, when the Germans recovered the ground they had lost. From April to the middle of August 1918, the extension was almost a front line cemetery. In August and September 1918, the casualty clearing stations came forward again (the 5th, 37th, 41st, 53rd, 55th and 61st) but in September, the cemetery was closed. There are now 1,231 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension.

Austin is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of
Private
A Frain

61864, 16th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 16 August 1918

Remembered with Honour
Daours Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

