



Fred Preston

1899-1918

Fred was born in Ravensthorpe on 3rd January 1899 and baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 15th June 1899. His father was John Preston, a self-employed Joiner and Undertaker born in Batley in 1860 and died in 1924. His mother was Emily (nee Shaw) born in Woolley near Wakefield in 1865 and died in 1932. They were married at Bretton in St. Bartholomew's Chapel in the parish of Silkstone near Barnsley on 27th December 1891.

Their other children were; May, born in Ravensthorpe in 1895 and Annie, born in Ravensthorpe in 1900.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe and later at 783, Kiln Terrace, Ravensthorpe.

John was previously married to Harriet Sutcliffe (born in Huddersfield in 1859 and died in 1885) at Kirkburton on 3rd February 1883. They had two children; Wilfred, born in 1883 and died in 1883 and Lewis, born in 1885 and died in 1885.

Fred was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Day School and attended the Church where he was a chorister from the age of seven and later a server, he went on to Mirfield Grammar School then Dewsbury Technical School; he worked at his father's business, Messrs Preston and Burnett.

He enlisted in March 1917 into the Lincolnshire Regiment, first serving in the 14th Training Reserve Battalion with the Service Number 3286 and then was sent to the Western Front in February 1918 serving as Private 42950 in the 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. He was killed in action in France near Hem-Lenglet, a village about 5 ½ miles north of Cambrai on 10th October 1918 and was buried in Paillencourt British Cemetery, close to the Sensee River which contained 12 other burials; in February 1920 his remains were reburied with the others in Naves Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Naves is a small village about 5 kilometres north-east of Cambrai. The Communal Cemetery is on the south side of the road a little south-west of the village. There are now nearly 450, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over a quarter are unidentified.

Fred 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

His parents donated the cross and a pair of candlesticks in his memory which still stand on the high altar in St. Saviour's Church; a fact recorded on a small brass plaque on the wall to the side of the altar.

In Memory of

Private

Fred Preston

42949, 6th Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 10 October 1918 Age 19

Only son of John and Emily Preston, of 783, Kiln Terrace, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Naves Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.