



## **Fred Tolson**

### **1890-1918**

Fred was born in Dewsbury on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1890. His father was William Henry Tolson, a Card Fettler in the woollen industry born in Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1933. His mother was Annie Hirst, born in Holmfirth, Huddersfield in 1864 and died in 1947. They were married on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1884 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

They had two more sons; Harry, born in 1884 and Herbert, born in 1886 and died in 1887.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 4, Oastler Yard, Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 123, Tweeddale Street, Dewsbury.

Fred was a single man who worked for a local newspaper as a printer's compositor.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 30029, later transferring to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry serving as Private 45742. The 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion landed in France as part of the 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Division in September 1915, but sailed to Salonika, Greece in November 1915. He was killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1918 during the attacks on Pip Ridge and the Grand-Couronne, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial, Greece. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Doiran Memorial stands near Doiran Military Cemetery, which is situated in the north of Greece close to the Republic of North Macedonia border and near the south-east shore of Lake Doiran. The Memorial stands roughly in the centre of the line occupied for two years by the Allies in Macedonia, but close to the western end, which was held by Commonwealth forces. It marks the scene of the fierce fighting of 1917-1918, which caused the majority of the Commonwealth battle casualties. From October 1915 to the end of November 1918, the British Salonika Force suffered some 2,800 deaths in action, 1,400 from wounds and 4,200 from sickness. The campaign afforded few successes for the Allies, and none of any importance until the last two months. The action of the Commonwealth force was hampered throughout by widespread and unavoidable sickness and by continual diplomatic and personal differences with neutrals or Allies. On one front there was a wide malarial river valley and on the other, difficult mountain ranges, and many of the roads and railways it required had to be specially constructed. The memorial serves the dual purpose of Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force (for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that force), and place of commemoration for more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known.

Fred 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 Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Fred Tolson**

45742, 8th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 18 September 1918 Age 28

Son of William Henry and Annie Tolson, of 123, Tweedale St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

**Doiran Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

