



Francis (Frank) Convey

1894-1918

Frank was born in Thornhill Lees on 26th October 1894 and was baptised as *Francis Convey* at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church on 11th November 1894. His father was Thomas Convey, a Labourer born in York in 1852. His mother was Ann (nee Cavanagh/Kavanagh) born in Sligo, Ireland in 1856 and died in 1908. They were married in York in 1873.

Their other children were; Catherine (Kate), born in York in 1874, Edward, born in York in 1877, Mary Ann, born in York in 1886, Ellen, born in Batley Carr in 1890, Agnes, born in Thornhill Lees in 1892 and Norah, born in Thornhill Lees in 1899.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 13, Chappell Street Yard, Batley, in 1901 at Bank Terrace, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 109, High Street, Westtown.

Frank was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church and was a playing member of Dewsbury Celtic Football Club. He worked in the Dyehouse of Messrs E Fox and Sons, Shoddy and Mungo Manufacturers, Calder Bank Mills, Dewsbury. Prior to enlistment he had been living with his sister Kate (now Mrs. Andrew Sheil) at 67, High Street, Westtown.

He was mobilised at the outbreak of war as a member of the Heckmondwike Artillery and was sent to the Western Front on 14th April 1915 serving as Driver 1139 in the Royal Field Artillery where he saw active service in France and Belgian Flanders until the end of 1917, when he was posted to the Salonika Campaign where he was attached to the 99th Brigade Ammunition Column Royal Field Artillery serving as Driver 780142. He died of pneumonia and influenza (Spanish Flu) on 26th November 1918 and was buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Frank was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter on 21st December 1918 noted the irony that he had served for over three years "*without receiving a scratch*".

Mikra British Cemetery is situated in the Municipality of Kalamaria in the city of Thessaloniki. In August 1916, a Greek revolution broke out at Salonika, with the result that the Greek national army came into the war on the Allied side. The town was the base of the British Salonika Force and it contained, from time to time, eighteen general and stationary hospitals. Three of these hospitals were Canadian, although there were no other Canadian units in the force. The British cemetery at Mikra was opened in April 1917, remaining in use until 1920; it was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from a number of burial grounds in the area. The cemetery now contains 1,810 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Frank 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. On all the above he is named as *Francis Convey*.

In Memory of

Driver

Frank Convey

780142, 99th Bde. Ammunition Col., Royal Field Artillery who died on 26 November 1918 Age 24

Brother of Mrs. Kate Sheil, of 67, High St., West Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.