



## **Michael Cox**

### **1899-1918**

Michael was born in Westtown, Dewsbury on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1899. His father was also Michael Cox, a Mule Spinner in a woollen mill born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1906. His mother was Mary (nee Durkin) born in Dewsbury around 1864 and died in 1926. They were married at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church, Dewsbury on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1886.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in 1886 and died of wounds 30<sup>th</sup> July 1915. Mary Ellen, born in 1888, Francis, born in 1891, James, born in 1893, Joseph, born in 1896 and Catherine, born in 1904. All the brothers served in World War 1.

In 1891 the family were living at 136, High Street, Westtown, in 1901 at 142, High Street and in 1911 at 86, High Street.

Michael was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended the Church. Upon enlistment he gave his occupation as a Dyers Labourer at Messrs Walter Walker and Sons, Kiln Mill, Dewsbury but his obituary stated that he was employed at Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Queens Mill, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Pontefract on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1917 into the 53<sup>rd</sup> Training Reserve, Durham Light Infantry with the Service Number 5/170189 and was sent to the Western Front on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1918 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry serving as Private 92010. He was killed in action in France on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Michael was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

Michael 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 War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Michael Cox**

92010, 2nd Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 24 September 1918

Remembered with Honour  
**Vis-En-Artois Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

