



## **Fred Exley**

### **1886 - 1916**

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1883. His father was Luke Exley, a Dyer's Labourer born in Heckmondwike in 1851 and died in 1837. His mother was Ellen June (nee Coulton) born in Barnard Castle, County Durham in 1855 and died in 1946. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1875.

Their other children were; John George, born in Startforth near Barnard Castle in 1879 and served in World War 1, Elizabeth Ann, born in 1883 and died in 1883, Emma Jane, born in 1890 and died in 1891 and Ernest born in 1893 and died of wounds on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Denton's Buildings, Dewsbury, in 1891 at 6, Back Kensington Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 23, Back Kensington Street.

Fred was a single man who was attached to the Granville Street Mission and upon leaving school he worked as a cloth finisher. Before enlistment he worked for Mr. J. E. Kilburn, Rag Merchant, Bradford Road, Dewsbury.

He was a pre-war territorial and enlisted into the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 11661 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and was sent to the Western Front on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1915; he was wounded two months later and came home for fourteen weeks to recuperate. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Fred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Fred is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal

**Fred Exley**

11661, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 30

Son of Luke and Ellen June Exley, of 23 Back, Kensington St., Flats, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

