



George Lacy Speight

1893 – 1916

George was born in Dewsbury on 24th September 1893. His father was Thomas William Speight, an Architect born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1920. His mother was Mary Jane (née Barker) born in Worcester in 1868 and died in 1935. They were married on 20th July 1892 at Crossbank Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Carlinghow, Batley. Thomas's mother's maiden name was Lacy, hence the middle-name shared by several of their children.

Their other children were; Nelly, born in 1891 and died in 1892, Dorothy, born in 1892 and died in 1893, Thomas Greenwood Lacy born in 1895 and was killed in action on 21st July 1918, Lilian Lacy, born in 1897, Travis Lacy Lawrence, born in 1900 and died in 1900 and May, born in 1907 and died in 1907.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Lacy's Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury but in 1911 Mary is living with three of her children at 6, Central Street, Dewsbury, her husband Thomas William is living as a boarder at an address in Heysham, Lancashire, and his occupation is shown as a boot repairer but in wartime he worked at the National Shell Factory in Barnbow, Leeds. Their later address was 1, Park View, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury.

George was a single man who worked as a warehouseman in the rag trade. The family had connections with the Wesleyan Methodists, with George undertaking the role of a local preacher on the Dewsbury Wesleyan Circuit.

He enlisted in Mirfield on 31st December 1914 serving as Private 3661 in the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He died of gunshot wounds to the chest sustained during the Battle of the Somme at a Casualty Clearing Station at Puchevillers on 5th July 1916 and was buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, Somme, France. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His brother, Thomas also served in the same regiment and was in France at the time of George's death.

Puchevillers is a village about 19 kilometres north-east of Amiens. In June 1916, just before the opening of the Battles of the Somme, the 3rd and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations came to the village and burials were made by those hospitals before the end of March 1917. The graves of men who died in the German advance in 1918 were buried by the 49th Clearing Station in March 1918 or by the 48th Labour Group in August. Puchevillers British Cemetery contains 1,763 First World War burials.

George 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of
Private
George Lacy Speight

3661, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 05 July 1916 Age 22

Son of Thomas and Mary Speight, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Puchevillers British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

