



## **Noble Wood**

### **1873 – 1916**

Noble was born in Dewsbury on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1873 and baptised at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1873. His father was John Wood, a Coal Miner and later a football club groundsman born in Oldham in 1850 and died in 1920. His mother was Sarah (née Preston) born in Earlsheaton in 1852 and died in 1902. They were married at All Saints Church on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1870.

On the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 70, Leeds Road Dewsbury.

Their other children were; John William, born in 1871 and died in 1873, Thomas Preston, born in 1875, Fred, born in 1881, George Henry, born in 1883 and died in 1883, Mary Alice, born in 1885 and Lily, born in 1887.

Noble initially worked as a piecer in a woollen mill but by 26<sup>th</sup> December 1892 when he married Florence Smith (born in 1872 and died in 1940) at St. Philips Church, Leeds Road he was working as a rag grinder for Machell Brothers, Shoddy and Mungo manufacturers. They had 7 children; John William, born in 1894 and served in World War 1, Harry, born in 1896, Elsie, born in 1900, Clara, born in 1906, Sarah Ellen, born in 1911 and died in 1911, Bertha, born in 1912 and Lily, born in 1914. In 1901 and 1911 they lived at 3, William Street, Dewsbury and later at 4, Ings Road off Leeds Road Dewsbury.

He enlisted in 1915 serving as Private 21250 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Western Front in December 1915. He was killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He was buried in Quarry Cemetery, Montauban, Somme, France. Noble was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

When the post arrived at the family home at Ings Road, off Leeds Road, his wife thought at first it was a letter from Noble, who she had not heard from for some time. Instead it was notification of his death.

Montauban is a village about 10 kilometres east of Albert. The village was taken by the 30<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Divisions on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 and it remained in Commonwealth hands until the end of March 1918. It was retaken on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918. Quarry Cemetery was begun (at an advanced dressing station) in July 1916, and used until February 1917. The Germans buried a few of their dead in April and May 1918. At the Armistice it consisted of 152 graves. It was then increased when graves (almost all of July-December 1916) were brought in from the battlefields surrounding Montauban and small burial grounds. Quarry Cemetery now contains 740 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 157 of the burials are unidentified.

Noble 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 Memorial Plaque from the now demolished St. Philips Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Noble Wood**

21250, 6th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 14 July 1916 Age 43

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wood, of Dewsbury; husband of Florence Wood, of 4, Ings Rd., Leeds Rd.,  
Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Quarry Cemetery, Montauban**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Steven Van Den Eynde, Aalst, Belgium.