



## **Ramsden Byrne**

### **1894 – 1916**

Ramsden was born in Thornhill Lees on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1894 and baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> March at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was Andrew Byrne, a glass bottle maker born in Thornhill Lees in 1874 and died in 1942. His mother was Charlotte (née Ramsden) born in Glasgow in 1876 and died in 1936. They were married in Holy Innocents Church on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1893.

Their other children were; Lucy, born in 1895, Thomas, born in 1897 and died in 1897, Eleanor, born in 1899, Harriet, born in 1901, Joseph, born in 1903 and died in 1903, George, born in 1904, John, born in 1906, Andrew, born in 1909, Willie, born in 1911 and Charlotte, born in 1916 and died in 1916.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 4, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees.

Ramsden was a single man who was associated with Holy Innocents Church Sunday school where he was a choirboy. He worked as a glass bottle blower at Messrs Kilner Brothers and later as a woollen mule piecer for Messrs Frederick Doble and Sons, Wharf Mills, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 20290 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Western Front on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1915. In May 1916 the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the KOSB merged, and it was with the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion that he was killed in action on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1916 during the Battle of the Somme while carrying up bombs to assist in an attack on enemy trenches. His remains were not found until August 1919 and he is now buried in Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France. Ramsden was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His parents later received a loving and poignant letter from him, written on the day he died.

Ramsden Byrne's birth record and his family's entries on the National Census all spell the surname correctly. For some reason all his service records spell his surname as *Burns*, even reports of his death in the local newspapers used this spelling. Whether he chose to alter his name upon enlistment or whether it was a clerical error is unknown. In 2017 Dewsbury Sacrifices submitted proof of the correct spelling to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and his record was amended. His headstone was replaced in 2021.

Ramsden 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and as *Ramsden Burns* on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

## Ramsden Byrne

20290, 7th/8th Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 12 August 1916 Age 22

(Served as BURNS) Son of Andrew and Charlotte Byrne, of 4, Queen St., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Poppy Mercier, Courcellette, Somme, France.