



## **Clifford Holmes**

### **1894 - 1917**

Clifford was born in Dewsbury on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1894 and baptised on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1894 in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was John Holmes, a glass bottle blower born in Thornhill in 1868 and died in 1949. His mother was Selina (nee Skidmore) born in Brierley Hill, Staffordshire in 1871 and died in 1950. They were married on December 24<sup>th</sup> 1891 at Holy Innocents Church.

Their other children were; Marion Clough Teal, born in 1893, Ethel, born in 1896, Mary, born in 1898, James, born in 1900 and served in World War 1, Arthur, born in 1902, Mark Fenton, born in 1904, Lena, born in 1906 and John, born in 1908.

On the 1901 Census they lived at Back Dale Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 109, Dale Street. They later lived at 22, Hebble Terrace, Thornhill Lees.

Clifford was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church day school and was a member of the Church Choir. At the time of his enlistment he worked for Messrs Fenton's at Cardwell Mills, Thornhill Lees.

He served as Private 20307 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers and saw service from 1915 in the Balkans, the Dardanelles (Gallipoli) Egypt and later on the Western Front, where he was twice wounded. He was killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Clifford was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Clifford 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

**Clifford Holmes**

20307, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 14 August 1917 Age 24

Son of John and Selina Holmes, of 22, Hebble Terrace, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

HOLMES C.