



## **Jesse Howgate**

### **1877-1916**

Jesse was born in Batley Carr in 1877. His father was Jabez William Howgate, a carpet weaver and later a butcher born in Batley Carr in 1846 and died in 1905. His mother was Lucy Ann (née Wilson) born in Dewsbury 1851 and died in 1922. They were married on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1868 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

Their other children were; George William, born in 1868, Joseph Harrison, born in 1869, Edward, born in 1870 and Caroline, a twin sister to Jesse born in 1877.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 87, Halifax Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 3, Carlton Terrace, Staincliffe and in 1911 at Ivy Cottage, 167, Dewsbury Gate Road, Staincliffe.

Jesse was a single man who was educated at Batley Carr Church School and initially worked for his father's butchery business but became a travelling greengrocer before working from around 1910 as a tram conductor with the West Yorkshire Electric Tram Company. He was well known in local musical circles, being described as "*a tenor of no mean order*" commencing as a boy chorister at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr; he sang for eight years at the Salem United Methodist Chapel and then for three years at Christ Church, Staincliffe. He was also a member of the Dewsbury Choral Society and was affiliated to Dewsbury Moor Working Men's Club.

He enlisted on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1916 serving as Private 5599 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front on 10<sup>th</sup> August and died in the 49<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Contay on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1916 from gunshot wound to the face, eye and arm sustained during the Battle of the Somme; he was buried in Contay British Cemetery, Somme, France. Jesse was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Contay is a village on the main road between Amiens and Arras. The site was chosen in August 1916 for burials from the 49<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, which arrived at Contay at the end of August. It was joined by the 9<sup>th</sup> CCS in September. Most of the burials between the period August 1916 to March 1917 were made from these two clearing stations. The German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in the spring of 1917 brought the medical units further east and it was not until April 1918, when the Germans advanced to Albert, that the 38<sup>th</sup> and other Divisions used the cemetery again. The last burial took place in August 1918. Contay British Cemetery contains 1,133 First World War burials.

Jesse 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

**J Howgate**

5599, 1st/4th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 24 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Contay British Cemetery, Contay**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

