



Michael McCullen

1870 – 1916

Michael was born at 2, Beacon Parade, Southowram, Halifax on 6th December 1870. His father was named as Patrick McCullen and his mother as Maria (née McGuire) born in Burnley.

On the 1871 census Maria is shown as living with her family, aged 23 years old and said to be married but there is no sign of the infant Michael or his father, her name is spelt *McCullum*. In 1881 the family are still living at the same address and Michael is listed as being aged 10 with an occupation of Rope Maker. Both he and his mother's surnames are given as *McGuire* and her age is shown as 30. On the 1891 census his name is spelt as *McCullem*, aged 22 and living with his grandmother's family at Beacon Parade, his mother is not listed. On the 1901 Census none of the family have been found.

He enlisted in the Army on 12th January 1893 serving as Private 4121 in the 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry giving his age as 19 years and 7 months. He was posted to India on 24th February 1894 and served there until 16th February 1899; he took part in the Tirah Campaign on the Punjab Frontier from 3rd September 1897 to 4th April 1898 and was there at the Battle of Shin Karmar Pass on 29th January 1898. He then served on the Isle of Mauritius from 17th February 1898 to 6th October 1898 and the South Africa Campaign from 7th October 1898 to 12th September 1902. He served at home from 13th September 1902 and was discharged on 9th January 1905 but re-enlisted in the Army Reserve for a further 4 years from 4th February 1905 until 3rd February 1909. He was awarded the India Medal for 1895 with two clasps for Punjab Frontier and Tirah Campaign; the Queen's South Africa Medal with four clasps for Belmont, Mudder River, Wittebergen and Transvaal; and the King's South Africa Medal with two clasps for 1901 and 1902.

Michael was married at Dewsbury Register Office on 12th August 1905 to Florrie Dransfield (born in Dewsbury in 1883 and died in 1968), The marriage was later blessed at Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church. Their children were; Maria, born in 1906 and died in 1906, Mary, born in 1907, John Allen, born in 1909, Thomas, born in 1912 and died in 1913 and Michael, born in 1914 and died in 1915. In 1911 the family lived at 30, Middle Road, Westtown. He worked as a Mason's Labourer and his obituary gave his employers as Messrs Alfred Hill and Company, Batley Carr. Florrie was remarried in 1919 to Joseph Walton (born in 1879 and died in 1920). They had a daughter, Norah, born in 1919.

Upon the outbreak of war, he re-enlisted in late August into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and joined the 3rd Battalion Special Reserve with the Service Number 3/1859. He was then posted to the 2nd Battalion and was sent to the Western Front on 4th December 1914. Around the time of August 1915, he was then posted to the 8th Battalion and was killed in action on 1st October 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. Michael was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Michael is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and on the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

Michael McCullen

3/1859, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 October 1916 Age 45

Husband of Florrie McCullen, of 30, Middle Rd., Westtown, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

MCCULLEN M.