



Edward (Eddie) Whitworth

1894 - 1917

Edward, known to his family as Eddie was born in Dewsbury on 4th August 1894. His father was Sam Whitworth, a Wholesale Newsagent born in Heckmondwike in 1872 and died in 1949. His mother was Maboth (nee Wilcock) born in Thornhill in 1865 and died in 1930. They were married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 14th November 1893.

Their other children were; Stanley, born in 1897, Jack, born in 1903 and died in 1903 and Olga, born in 1906.

On the 1901 Census they lived at 37, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at Hulton House, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Eddie was educated at Batley Grammar School and later at Worksop College and assisted his father in his Wholesale Newsagency in Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in December 1915 serving as Private 25892 Edward Whitworth in the Yorkshire Regiment and later as Private 43631 in the 17th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front on 28th August 1916. He was wounded almost immediately he took his place in the trenches and was hospitalised for four months. He was entitled to wear a "Wound Stripe" as authorised under Army Order 204 of the 6th July 1916. He returned to the front on 27th February 1917 and was killed in action in Northern France on 8th March 1917, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Eddie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Sadly, these medals were later returned in 1920/21, the reason is unknown. His Soldier's Effects register name his legatees as Miss Jane Rimmer and Catherine McCall.

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.

Eddie is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in the Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the Batley Grammar School Memorial Plaque and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Edward Whitworth

43631, 17th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 08 March 1917

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

WHITWORTH E.