



## **Frederick (Fred) Holmes**

### **1889 - 1916**

Frederick, known to his family as Fred was born in Leeds in 1889. His father was also Frederick Holmes, born in Derby in 1843 and died in 1917; he was a Cashier and later Company Secretary at the woollen mill of Messrs Marshall, Kaye and Marshall in Ravensthorpe. His mother was Susan Emily (nee Wignall) born in Leeds in 1854 and died in 1895. They were married at St. John the Evangelist's Church, Leeds on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1888.

Their other children were; twins Nathaniel Wheatcroft, born in 1891 and Brammall Sykes, born in 1891 and died in 1892 and Mary Gertrude, born in 1893.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at North Road, Ravensthorpe and in 1901 and 1911 at 5, Beacon Street, Ravensthorpe. In 1911 Fred was living as a boarder with another Holmes family at Broughton's Buildings, Lee Green, Mirfield.

Fred was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Boys School, Ravensthorpe and later at Wheelwright Grammar School; he was attached to St. Saviour's Church and worked as a Pattern Weaver with his father at Messrs Marshall, Kaye and Marshall.

He was previously a Territorial in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) from 1908 to 1912. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 1914 he enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 16698 in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of 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. Fred was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In 1919 his effects were sent to a Miss Alice Coates, the sole legatee.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Frederick 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church and on the Memorial Plaque in Wheelwright Grammar School to fallen pupils.

In Memory of

Private

**Fred Holmes**

16698, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

