



## **Wilfred Jackson**

### **1892 - 1916**

Wilfred (birth name registered as *Wilfrid*) was born in Whitley in 1892. His father was James Jackson, a Willyer (wool comber) born in Dewsbury in 1866. His mother was Emma (nee Noble) born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1902. They were married in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1889.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1889, Ernest, born in 1895, Noble, born in 1897 and Ada, born in 1901.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 62, Wilman Road, Westtown. James was remarried in 1906 to a widow, Theresa Gower (born in 1864).

In 1911 their address was given as 28, South Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and also living in the house were Theresa's children; Edith Gower, born in 1889 and Arthur Edward Gower, born in 1892. Wilfred was working as a stable boy and was a boarder with the family of Frederick Phillipson, a coachman and his wife Elizabeth in Reigate, Surrey.

Wilfred was a single man. His obituary on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1916 gave the family's address as 23, Denton's Yard, Central Street, Dewsbury; they later lived at 13, Back Barber Street, Dewsbury.

He was a reservist recalled at the outbreak of war, enlisting in Bradford and serving as Private 19785 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own); he was later wounded in the side and legs but recovered after a stay in hospital. He was killed in action near Fricourt on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His body was later recovered and buried in Fricourt New Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Wilfred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment suffered the most casualties in the history of the British Army on any single day of action. The official battalion war diary for this day records losses of 750 soldiers and 27 officers killed, missing and wounded. At dawn on 1<sup>st</sup> July the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion had begun their attack with around 900 men. By nightfall they numbered barely more than 125.

The village of Fricourt is approximately 5 kilometres east of Albert. On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1916, Fricourt village was just within the German front line. It was attacked on 1<sup>st</sup> July by the 17<sup>th</sup> Division, and by the end of the day it was caught between that division to the west, the 21<sup>st</sup> to the north and the 7<sup>th</sup> to the south; the village was occupied by the 17<sup>th</sup> Division the following day. From 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918 to the following 26<sup>th</sup> August, Fricourt was again in German hands. Two cemeteries were made by the 17<sup>th</sup> Division, and most of the dead buried in them belonged to that division. Fricourt New Military Cemetery is in fact four big graves, made by the 10<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment after the capture of Fricourt in July 1916, and a few single graves of September 1916. The cemetery contains 210 First World War burials, 26 of them unidentified. 159 of the graves belong to the 10<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment.

Wilfred is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of  
Private  
**W Jackson**

19785, 10th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour  
**Fricourt New Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

