



## **Fred Lionel Riley**

### **1881 - 1916**

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1881. His father was Tom Riley, a Blanket Fuller, born in Dewsbury in 1853 and died in 1922. His mother was Sarah Anne Elizabeth (née Dyson) born in Huddersfield in 1854 and died in 1940. They were married on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1878 at All Saints Church, Batley.

Their other children were; Percy Dyson, born in 1879, Nellie Sarah, born in 1883 and Leonard Arthur, born in 1890.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Quarry Road, Dewsbury, in 1891, 1901 and 1911 at 4, Rodgers Street, Dewsbury.

Fred was a professional musician after starting his working life in a woollen mill. He was a well respected musician having played the trombone and euphonium in the Batley Old Band and the Dewsbury Military Band. He had spent four seasons playing at the Valley Gardens in Harrogate and had won many distinguished prizes playing in Scotland and Wales.

He was married in 1909 to Minnie Jowett (born in Shipley in 1885 and died in 1968). In 1911 they lived at 6, Bala Street, Barnsley; they had one child, Madge, born in Doncaster in 1912. His newspaper obituary in 1916 gave his address as 22, Grange Avenue, Balby, Doncaster. Minnie and her daughter later moved back to her parents address at 7, Asquith Avenue, Morley. Minnie was remarried in 1931 to John Charles Brooksbank (born in 1884 and died in 1937).

He served as Private 30875 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry enlisting in June 1916 and was sent to the Western Front in September. He died on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1916 as a result of wounds to the feet sustained from a shell burst. He was buried in Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Warlincourt and Saulty are villages on either side of the main road between Arras and Doullens. The site of the cemetery was chosen in May 1916. It was used from June 1916 to May 1917 by the 20<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations, in February 1917 by the 1<sup>st</sup>/1st South Midland, and from April to June 1917 by the 32<sup>nd</sup>. From June 1917, the cemetery was practically unused until the fighting of May and June 1918, when field ambulances buried in it. After the Armistice the cemetery was increased by graves brought in from smaller military cemeteries. The cemetery now contains 1,266 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Fred 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

**F L Riley**

30875, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 21 November 1916 Age 35

Husband of Minnie Riley, of 7, Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds.

Remembered with Honour

**Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.