



## **Edwin Groves**

### **(William Edwin Grove)**

### **1896 - 1917**

The name Edwin Groves appears on the Dewsbury Cenotaph and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour. Initial research failed to discover anyone with this name with any connection to the District. In April 2018 following further extensive research, a family named Grove from the Birmingham area with a son named William Edwin were found to have lived in Brighton Street, Heckmondwike on the 1911 Census, it is not known when the family moved back to the Birmingham area. The Memorial and Roll of Honour were not inaugurated until 1924 so it is possible that the family still had connections or even relatives in the area. Dewsbury Sacrifices are of the opinion that Edwin Groves and William Edwin Grove are one and the same person, therefore we have recorded his history and military service below.

William Edwin Grove was born in West Bromwich, Staffordshire in 1896. His father was Alfred John Grove, a machine tool fitter/maker born in Swaffham, Norfolk in 1870 and died in 1939. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Ramsell) born in Darley, Shropshire in 1869 and died in 1899. They were married in King's Norton, Birmingham in 1890. They also had a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1892.

In 1900 Alfred was remarried to a widow, Faith Hope Stansbie, nee Oakley (born in Gornal, Staffordshire in 1856 and died in 1924) On the 1901 Census the family were living at 46, Payton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham with Faith's daughter Hannah Elizabeth Stansbie, born in 1888.

William Edwin served as Private 9/6725 with a later Service Number of 326652 in "A" Company 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry; his Battalion first landed in Salonika, Greece in November 1915 and he must have been posted there after the beginning of 1916. He was killed in action on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and has no known grave and so he is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial, Greece. William Edwin was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death was not officially confirmed until 7<sup>th</sup> February 1918.

The Doiran Memorial stands roughly in the centre of the line occupied for two years by the Allies in Macedonia, but close to the western end, which was held by Commonwealth forces. It marks the scene of the fierce fighting of 1917-1918, which caused the majority of the Commonwealth battle casualties. From October 1915 to the end of November 1918, the British Salonika Force suffered some 2,800 deaths in action, 1,400 from wounds and 4,200 from sickness. The memorial serves the dual purpose of Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force (for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that force), and place of commemoration for 2,174 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known.

William Edwin is also commemorated as *Edwin Groves* on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Spiritualist Church.

In Memory of

Private

## William Edwin Grove

326652, "A" Coy. 2nd/9th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 07 June 1917 Age 20

Son of Alfred John and Mary Ann Grove, of 10, Oxford Place, Wattville Rd., Handsworth, Birmingham. Born at West Bromwich.

Remembered with Honour

Doiran Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

