



William Blackburn Porritt

1895 - 1916

William was born in Dewsbury on the 22nd April 1895. His father was Joe Porritt, born in Dewsbury in 1859 and who died in 1910. His wife was Emma (nee Schofield) born in Flushdyke, Ossett in 1861 and died in 1902. They were married on 31st August 1879 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

Their other children were; Sarah Ellen, born in 1879, Harriet Ann, born in 1883, Lucy, born in November 1885, Walter, born in 1887, Jane, born in 1890 and died in 1907 and James, born in 1900.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 7, Kensington Street, Dewsbury. William was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church Day School and attended St. Johns Church in Dewsbury Moor; on the 1911 Census he was a Clog Maker for Mr. A. Baker, Wellington Road, Dewsbury and living with his married sister Harriet (now Mrs. Horace Bedford) at 1, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury. Horace Bedford later took over the Clog Making business and they all moved to Wellington Road where William continued his employment.

He served as Private 25223 in the 8th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 10th December 1915. He was killed in action on 1st 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. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death was not officially confirmed until April 1917.

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 equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

William is also 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

William Blackburn Porritt

25223, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 21

Brother of Mrs. H. A. Bedford, of 1, Ashworth Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

PORRITT W B