



## **Leslie Giggall**

### **1899-1918**

Leslie was born in Earlsheaton in 1899. His father was Allen Giggall, a Dyer and later a self-employed Mungo Manufacturer born in Ossett in 1862 and died in 1931. His mother was Jane (nee Bywater) born in Ossett in 1862 and died in 1919. They were married on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1883 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. Allen served as a Councillor on Dewsbury Town Council.

Their other children were; Emma, born in Ossett in 1884, Fred, born in Earlsheaton in 1885, Violet, born in Earlsheaton in 1888, Arthur, born in Earlsheaton in 1895, Clarence, born in Earlsheaton in 1901 and died in 1904 and Mona, born in Earlsheaton in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Duke Street, Chickenley, in 1901 and 1911 at School Street, Chickenley Lane, Chickenley and later at Oxnead House, Chickenley Lane.

Leslie was a single man who was educated at Chickenley Lane Council School and Wheelwright Grammar School; he worked in his father's business at Perseverance Mills, Paleside, Ossett.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1917 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment serving as Private 49377 and was sent to the Western Front around Christmas; in March 1918 he was wounded during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). He was sent home to recuperate and on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918 he rejoined his unit in Ireland, going out to the Western Front a few days later. He was killed in action in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918 when he was hit by a shell near Vendegies-au-Bois during the Battle of the Selle and was buried in Vendegies-Au-Bois British Cemetery, Nord, France. Leslie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vendegies-au-Bois is a small village in the Nord region of France. It is situated east of Cambrai, just off the road between Bavray and Le Cateau. Vendegies-au-Bois was captured by British troops on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918. The Cemetery was made by the 21<sup>st</sup> Division. There are now over 40, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site (mainly of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lincolns and the 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, dating from October and November 1918).

Leslie is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Ossett War Memorial and on the Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath St. Mary the Virgin Church Oak Memorial Plaque (relocated to Ossett Trinity Church following the demolition of St. Mary's) and on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced).

In Memory of  
Private  
**L Giggall**

49377, 1st Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 23 October 1918

Remembered with Honour  
**Vendegies-Au-Bois British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

