



William Henry Preston

1899-1918

William was born in Batley Carr on 9th July 1899. His father was Herbert Preston, a General Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1949. His mother was Florence (nee Webster) born in Dewsbury in 1879 and died in 1926. They were married at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 24th December 1898.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1901 and served in World War 1, Esther, born in 1903 and died in 1905, Herbert, born in 1905, Arthur, born in 1906, Sam, born in 1910 and died in 1910, Edna May, born in 1911, Jack, born in 1913, Edith, born in 1914 and Mary, born in 1918.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Henry Street, Batley Carr, in 1911 at 55, Upper Road, Batley Carr and later at 6, Pickles Street, Batley Carr.

William was a single man who was educated at Batley Carr Council School and attended Holy Trinity Church, where he was also a choirboy. He was employed in the warehouse of Messrs Joshua Ellis and Company.

He enlisted in Dewsbury serving as Private 303821 in the 11th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment. He died in a Casualty Clearing Station near Hazebrouck, France on 6th September 1918 after suffering shrapnel wounds the previous day; he was buried in La Kreule Military Cemetery, Hazebrouck, Nord, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

La Kreule is a small hamlet 2 kilometres north of Hazebrouck, on the road to St. Sylvestre-Cappel and Steenvoorde. La Kreule Military Cemetery was opened in April 1918 by the 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations, which came back from Outtersteene ahead of the German advance, and the 17th, which arrived from Lijssenthoek. These three stations, known collectively as "Ana Jana Siding", were posted to the north of La Kreule, but in the middle of April they withdrew to Blendecques, near St. Omer, and the cemetery was then used by heavy artillery and fighting units. In October 1918, the 17th Casualty Clearing Station returned with the 8th and the 64th and the cemetery was closed at the end of the month. The cemetery contains 576 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

William is commemorated as *William Preston* on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *W.H. Preston* on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Spiritualist Church.

In Memory of

Private

W H Preston

30382, 11th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 06 September 1918 Age 19

Son of Herbert and Florence Preston, of Batley Carr, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

La Kreule Military Cemetery, Hazebrouck



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.