



## **Frank Blakeley**

### **1893-1920**

Frank was born at 66, Upper Road, Batley Carr on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1893. His father was Tolson Blakeley, a School Caretaker born in Batley Carr in 1864 and died in 1938. His mother was Martha (nee Lyles) born in Batley Carr in 1865 and died in 1911. They were married on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1889 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

Their other children were; George Alfred, born in 1889 and died in 1890, Walter, born in 1896 and Albert Edward, born in 1902 and died in 1902.

On the 1891 Census, Tolson and Martha lived at 137, Lidgate Lane, Dewsbury, in 1901 with their children Frank and Walter at 30, Beckett's Yard, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 11, Thomas Street, off Beckett Road, Batley Carr and later at 25, Naylor Street, Batley Carr.

Frank was a single man who on the 1911 Census is recorded as a grocer's assistant. When he enlisted in 1915 he gave his occupation as a warehouseman.

He attested in Dewsbury on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1915 and was posted to Woolwich the following day, serving as Driver 114406 with the Royal Horse and Field Artillery. He served at home until 14<sup>th</sup> October 1916 and was sent to Mesopotamia on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1916. He returned to England on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918 and went on leave the following day. Whilst on leave he was admitted to hospital suffering from consumption and was discharged from the Army on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1918. He was granted a pension of 27/6d per week from 11<sup>th</sup> October 1918 and issued with Silver War Badge B26875. He died at his home at Naylor Street on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1920 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Tuberculosis of the Intestine due to active service. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Frank was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Frank is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

Frank was not initially recorded as a War Casualty in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. There were a number of possibilities for this omission; perhaps his family did not inform the correct authority or that his cause of death was deemed at the time to be not related to his reason for discharge. The crucial wording "attributed to" or "caused by" Army service does not appear on his death certificate, although it is mentioned on his service and discharge records.

In 2019 as more records became available on-line, Dewsbury Sacrifices collated all available Service Records, Pension Records and submitted them to the appropriate authority on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019. On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022 he was accepted as an official war casualty and his name was added to the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and in June 2025 a Commission Headstone was erected.

In Memory Of

Driver

# FRANK BLAKELEY

Service Number: 114406

3C Reserve Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 14 August 1920

Remembered with Honour

DEWSBURY CEMETERY

G. "C." 138.



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COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
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WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

