



## **Ernest Denton**

### **1896 – 1916**

Ernest was born in Thornhill Lees on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1896. His father was Richard Denton, a glass bottle blower born in Fairburn near Castleford in 1868 and died in 1943. His mother was Sarah Jane (nee Cowgill) born in Bristfield in 1867 and died in 1941. They were married on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1890 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were; Arthur, born in 1891, William Henry, born in 1893 and served in World War 1, Annie, born in 1898, Tom, born in 1901, Hilda, born in 1903, Amy, born in 1906 and Jack, born in 1909.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at Kilner Buildings, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at 30, Hebble Terrace, Thornhill Lees.

The 1911 census shows Sarah Jane and all her children living at 48, Helman's Buildings, Brewery Lane, Thornhill Lees stating that she had been married for 20 years although Richard Denton is not recorded on this return; he is shown as still living as the only occupant at the 1901 address 30, Hebble Terrace, the reason for this is not known.

Ernest was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Glass Bottle Blower for Messrs Kilner Brothers. He was connected with Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and attended the Institute there. His obituary gave his mother's address as 109, Dale Street, Thornhill Lees and that prior to enlistment he was employed by Messrs J. Brown and Company Ltd, chemical manufacturers, Savile Town.

He enlisted in November 1915 serving as Private 26534 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1916. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ernest is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

# Ernest Denton

26534, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

