



Wilfred Jackson

1892 - 1916

Wilfred (birth name registered as *Wilfrid*) was born in Whitley in 1892. His father was James Jackson, a Willyer (wool comber) born in Dewsbury in 1866. His mother was Emma (nee Noble) born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1902. They were married in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 13th July 1889.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1889, Ernest, born in 1895, Noble, born in 1897 and Ada, born in 1901.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 62, Wilman Road, Westtown. James was remarried in 1906 to a widow, Theresa Gower (born in 1864).

In 1911 their address was given as 28, South Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and also living in the house were Theresa's children; Edith Gower, born in 1889 and Arthur Edward Gower, born in 1892. Wilfred was working as a stable boy and was a boarder with the family of Frederick Phillipson, a coachman and his wife Elizabeth in Reigate, Surrey.

Wilfred was a single man. His obituary on 26th August 1916 gave the family's address as 23, Denton's Yard, Central Street, Dewsbury; they later lived at 13, Back Barber Street, Dewsbury.

He was a reservist recalled at the outbreak of war, enlisting in Bradford and serving as Private 19785 in the 10th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own); he was later wounded in the side and legs but recovered after a stay in hospital. He was killed in action near Fricourt on 1st July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His body was later recovered and buried in Fricourt New Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Wilfred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On 1st July 1916 the 10th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment suffered the most casualties in the history of the British Army on any single day of action. The official battalion war diary for this day records losses of 750 soldiers and 27 officers killed, missing and wounded. At dawn on 1st July the 10th Battalion had begun their attack with around 900 men. By nightfall they numbered barely more than 125.

The village of Fricourt is approximately 5 kilometres east of Albert. On 30th June 1916, Fricourt village was just within the German front line. It was attacked on 1st July by the 17th Division, and by the end of the day it was caught between that division to the west, the 21st to the north and the 7th to the south; the village was occupied by the 17th Division the following day. From 25th March 1918 to the following 26th August, Fricourt was again in German hands. Two cemeteries were made by the 17th Division, and most of the dead buried in them belonged to that division. Fricourt New Military Cemetery is in fact four big graves, made by the 10th West Yorkshire Regiment after the capture of Fricourt in July 1916, and a few single graves of September 1916. The cemetery contains 210 First World War burials, 26 of them unidentified. 159 of the graves belong to the 10th West Yorkshire Regiment.

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

In Memory of
Private
W Jackson

19785, 10th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour
Fricourt New Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

