



Edward Greenwood

1891 – 1916

Edward was born at 4, Gill Lane, Northorpe, Mirfield on 23rd October 1891. His father was James Hinchcliffe Greenwood, a Blanket Raiser born in Batley Carr in 1865 and died in 1931. His mother was Ellen, sometimes Nelly or Nellie (née Barton) born in Marshside, Southport, Lancashire in 1868 and died in 1933. They were married in 1888. Prior to her marriage Ellen had a son, George Barton born in 1884 and died in 1885.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Fell Lane, Mirfield, in 1901 at North Road, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 47, Back Hanover Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Their other children were: James, born in 1893 and died in 1893, Alice Ada, born in 1895 and died in 1896, James, born in 1899 and was killed in action 27th May 1918, Hilda, born in 1902 and died in 1902, Nelly/Nellie, born in 1903 and Annie, born in 1907 and died in 1907.

Edward was a single man who worked as a yarn packer in 1911 and in 1914 he was employed by Messrs James Fenton and Sons, Headfield Mills, Savile Town.

He enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery for 12 years just prior to the outbreak of war, serving as Gunner 40032; he was sent to the Western Front on 15th May 1915 and shortly after his arrival there he suffered a leg wound and was sent back to England where he was able to visit his home. On his return to the front he was wounded again, this time to his head and both arms. Having recovered, he wrote; *“I am quite well at present. I hope to be coming home on pass before long now. How are all the boys going on in Dewsbury?”* This was to be his last letter home as was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 10th July 1916 whilst serving with the 7th Trench Mortar Battery. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Edward was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Amongst the communications his parents received at their home at 47, Back Hanover Street was one from a comrade, Private T. Healey. He wrote; *“I am sorry to say your son Edward was killed in action two days ago. This is the first time I have had a chance to write to you. He was my best pal. I was sitting with him when he got killed. He died a hero. I hope you will try and bear up best you can. We never know the minute. I will see that his last resting place is marked with a cross before I go out”*.

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 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.

Edward 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 Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Moorlands Wesleyan Centenary Chapel.

In Memory of

Gunner

Edward Greenwood

40032, "Y" 7th T.M. Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 10 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

GREENWOOD E.