



George Lister Mayman 1884 – 1916

George was born in Dewsbury in 1884. His father was James Mayman, an Ironmonger's Assistant and later a Rag Warehouseman born in Hanging Heaton in 1861 and died in 1928. His mother was Frances Mary Blades, born in Brigstock, Northamptonshire in 1861. They were married in 1881. She appears as Frances M. *Wayman* on the 1901 Census, living in Bradford as a servant in a public house, but cannot be traced on the 1911 Census. There is a death recorded of a Frances Mary Mayman age 71 in Maldon, Essex on 23rd October 1932.

Their other children were; Nellie, born in 1882, Maud Annie born in 1887, James Albert, born in 1889 and died in 1889, Ernest Arthur, born in 1890 and served in World War 1 and Elsie, born in 1893. On the 1891 Census the family lived at 57, Granville Street, Dewsbury.

James was married again in 1915 to Elizabeth Fox (born in 1859 and died in 1952). They already had two children; Edith Mayman, born in 1897 and Roland Lister Mayman, born in 1898 and was killed in action 24th June 1918. In 1901 they lived at 62, Hartley Street, Batley Carr and in 1911 at 12, Pyrah Street, Dewsbury.

George was educated at Boothroyd Council School and worked as a joiner's apprentice at Messrs. Armitage Brothers, joiners and undertakers in Batley Carr. However, in 1904 he enlisted in the Army, initially with the Royal Engineers but subsequently transferring to the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He served for 11 years in India, attaining a first-class certificate for musketry and rising to the rank of Serjeant by 1906. When war broke out he was drafted back to England, serving as an instructor for his regiment. He was married on 3rd April 1915 at St. Philips Church, Dewsbury to Alice Hall (born in 1896 and died in 1992). They lived at 76, Cliffe Street, Dewsbury. Alice was remarried in 1928 to Joshua Warburton Taylor Eastwood (born in 1903 and died in 1959) they had two children; Rowland, born in 1929 and Marian Margaret Rose, born in 1934 and died in 1934.

In February 1916 he went out to France, and in April he was promoted to Company Serjeant Major 8246 with the 10th Battalion. His letters home conveyed the horror of war and the bravery of the men. In one letter he said; *"It isn't war; its scientific murder.... The people at home should fall down and worship Tommy Atkins for what he is enduring for them. Poor lads! The limits of human endurance are stretched, and the boys are heroes... If only those at home could imagine what is going on here they would be aghast at the horrible thing war is."* He was killed in action on 30th July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. Injured whilst leading part of 'B' Company in an attack, a soldier was bandaging his wounds when both were killed by machine gun fire. In one of his letters home he had written about the poor, mangled bodies which could not be brought away. Ironically, his battalion had to leave his body in the open, though his Captain was hopeful it would be recovered later. His remains were found in 1919 and he was buried in Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, Somme, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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

In Memory of
Company Serjeant Major
G L Mayman

8246, 10th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 30 July 1916

Son of James and Mary Mayman, of 12, Pyrah St., Dewsbury; husband of Alice Mayman, of 76, Cliffe St., Dewsbury. Eleven years in India with the 1st Bn.

Remembered with Honour
Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Philippe Clerbout.