



Herbert Oakes Clegg

1896 – 1916

Herbert was born in Dewsbury in 1896. His father was James Oakes Clegg, a Warehouseman and later a Waiter at an Inn; born in Batley Carr in 1843 and died in 1902. His mother was Agnes (née Murphy) born in Doncaster in 1868 and died in 1920. They were married in Doncaster in 1890.

Their other children were; Walter, born in 1891 and was killed in action 5th October 1915, Lena, born in 1893, Newman, born in 1894 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 3, Wood Hill, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 10, Mallinson Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 16, South Woodbine Street, Dewsbury.

James (usually referred to as Oakes) had previously been married in Castleford in 1865 to Emma Monkman (born in 1848 and died in 1876). They had six children who were half-siblings to Herbert; Thomas Henry, born in 1865, Kate, born in 1866, James Arthur, born in 1869 and served in World War 1, Walter, born in 1870 and died in 1889, Eliza, born in 1873 and Mary Ann, born in 1875.

Herbert was a single man who was educated at St. Paulinus School and attended Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church. He worked as a piecer at Hamer & Sons woollen mill in Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in 1914 serving as Private 10/17072 in the 10th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 11th September 1915. He was killed in action on 25th September 1916 during 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. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, which was returned as it was issued after the death of his mother and not passed on to his remaining family by whoever was then living at the address.

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. 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 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Herbert 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

Herbert Clegg

10/17072, 10th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 25 September 1916 Age 20

Son of Mrs. Agnes Clegg, of 6, South Woodbine St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

