



## Ernest Lightfoot

### 1891 – 1916

Ernest was born in Dewsbury in 1891. His father was John Lightfoot, a Warehouse Foreman at Savile Town Wharf born in Knottingley in 1855 and died in 1919. His mother was Ellen (née Hanson) born in 1860 and died in 1957. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1879.

Their other children were; Elizabeth Ellen, born in 1880 and died in 1916, Albert, born in 1881, Florence Amelia, born in 1883, Harry, born in 1885 and served in World War 1, Annie, born in 1887, Clara, born in 1889, Arthur, born in 1893 and was killed in action 11<sup>th</sup> August 1917, Fred, born in 1895 and died in 1895, Arnold, born in 1896 and was killed in action 9<sup>th</sup> October 1917, Ivy, born in 1898 and Dora, born in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Fearnley Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Navigation Yard, Savile Town and in 1911 at 104, Warren Street, (The Wharf) Savile Town.

Ernest was married to Harriet Ann Cooper (born in 1889 and died in 1927) in 1910. He worked as a Carrier before enlisting in 1915. They had two children; Clara, born in 1911 and Arthur, born in 1914. They lived at 63, Tweedale Street, Dewsbury and later at 11, Springfield View, Willans Road, Dewsbury. Harriet was remarried in 1919 to John Landers (born in 1885 and died in 1946).

He served as Private 12/1573 with the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. During the early stages of the Battle of the Somme he sustained bullet wounds to his foot and right arm which was broken and also had a broken thigh. He lay for hours without food and treatment before finally crawling to a trench; from there he was taken down the line for treatment. He died of his wounds in the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916 and was buried in Couin British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His wife received a letter from a sister in the hospital where he died. She wrote: "*His wounds were very severe, and although we hoped to pull him through, and did everything possible for him he died to-day. He spoke to me of you, and hoped you wouldn't worry about him. He was an excellent patient, and as brave as possible to the end*". The chaplain who conducted his burial service in a military cemetery assured her he "*died a hero's death*" and "*a cross will be placed at once in position, and every care will be taken of the grave*".

Couin British Cemetery was begun in May 1916 by the field ambulances of the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division, and was used by units and field ambulances during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It was closed at the end of January 1917 because further extension was not possible. The Cemetery now contains 401 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Ernest is 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now kept in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

**E Lightfoot**

12/1573, 12th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 09 July 1916

Husband of H. Ann Lightfoot, of 11, Springfield View, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

**Couin British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

