



Fred Haythorne

1893-1918

Fred was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was Harry Haythorne, a Post Office Overseer born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1941. His mother was Sarah (nee Marshall) born in Gildersome near Leeds in 1867 and died in 1947. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 30th January 1888.

Their other children were; Ethel, born in 1888 and Edith, born in 1901.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 19, Back Webster Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Vulcan Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 4, Vulcan Terrace, Dewsbury and later at "Sunny View" 323, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Fred was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Rag Auctioneers Clerk and later as a clerk in the local tramway depot. He was connected to Dewsbury Baptist Church.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in May 1916 as Private 30262 in the 17th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in the September of that same year. He was later transferred into the Labour Corps as Private 17490. He died of sickness in France on 28th March 1918 at in a hospital at Aire-sur-la-Lys. He was buried in Aire Communal Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Labour Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were returned wounded. Labour Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods. In the crises of March and April 1918 on the Western Front, Labour Corps units were used as emergency infantry. The Corps always suffered from its treatment as something of a second class organisation: for example, the men who died are commemorated under their original regiment, with Labour Corps being secondary.

Aire is a town about 14 Kms south-south-east of St. Omer. From March 1915 to February 1918, Aire was a busy but peaceful centre used by Commonwealth forces as corps headquarters. The Highland Casualty Clearing Station was based there as was the 39th Stationary Hospital (from May 1917) and other medical units. Plot I contains burials from this period. The burials in plots II, III and IV relate to the fighting of 1918, when the 54th Casualty Clearing Station came to Aire and the town was, for a while, within 13 Kms of the German lines. The cemetery now contains 894 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Fred 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 in St. Paul's Churchyard, Hanging Heaton.

In Memory of

Private

Fred Haythorne

30262, 17th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 28 March 1918 Age 24

Son of Harry and Sarah Haythorne, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Aire Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

