



Fred Hudson

1895-1918

Fred was born in Hanging Heaton on 29th August 1895. His father was William Hudson, a Domestic Gardener born in Batley Carr in 1860 and died in 1940. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Hobson) born in Batley Carr in 1861 and died in 1920. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley Carr on 29th April 1883.

They had one other child; Harry Hudson, born in 1890 and served in World War 1.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Sunny Bank, Hanging Heaton, in 1911 at Leeds Road, Dewsbury and later at 15, Highfield Cottages, Commonside, Hanging Heaton, Batley.

Fred was a single man who was educated at Hanging Heaton Church School and Sunday school; he worked as a Pattern Weaver and later was a tier-on at Messrs G and J Stubley, Bottom Mills, Batley.

He enlisted in August 1913 having previously been a Territorial and was a member of the first British Expeditionary Force to go to the Western Front in August 1914. He was involved in the retreat from Mons and in September 1916 he was wounded in the arm and was invalided home. When he had recovered he was kept in home camps, training recruits for 12 months and at Christmas 1917 he returned to France. He died of wounds on 29th March 1918 in No.12 Stationary Hospital at St. Pol-sur-Ternoise, having being wounded in the face and both legs during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). He was buried in St. Pol British Cemetery, St. Pol-sur-Ternoise, Pas-de-Calais, France. Fred was awarded the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His parents had received an Official Telegram and a letter from the hospital Sister F.G. Widdop informing them of his death. The Dewsbury District News headline for his obituary on 6th April 1918 described him as: "*An Old Contemptible at 22*".

St. Pol-sur-Ternoise was a military administrative centre during the whole of the First World War and was taken over by Commonwealth troops from the French in March 1916. No.12 Stationary Hospital was posted on the race-course near the town from 1st June 1916 to 1st June 1919. St. Pol British Cemetery was begun in March 1918, when the extension to the communal cemetery was almost full; the last burial was made in July 1920. St. Pol British Cemetery contains 258 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
Serjeant
Fred Hudson

9731, 1st Bn., Coldstream Guards who died on 29 March 1918 Age 22

Son of William Hudson, of 115, Highfield Cottages, Commonside, Hanging Heaton, Batley. Native of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
St. Pol British Cemetery, St. Pol-Sur-Ternoise



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Charles Wheeler.