



## **Lewis Tinker**

### **1891 – 1915**

Lewis was born in Earlsheaton on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1891; his full birth name was *Thomas Lewis Tinker*. His father was Walter Tinker, a Boiler Firer born in Whitwood near Wakefield in 1870 and died in 1945. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Hemingway) born in Earlsheaton in 1870 and died in 1926. They were married in 1890.

Their other children were; Hubert, born in 1893, Walter Barraclough, born in 1895 and died in 1896, Maurice Victor, born in 1897, Ida Alice, born in 1903 and Lucy Agnes, born in 1905.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 6, West Vale, Dewsbury.

Lewis worked as an Agent on behalf of the Wesleyan and General Friendly Society. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Dewsbury Company of the Boys Brigade and then became a Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dewsbury Company, which was connected with the Ebenezer Sunday School. He was educated at Westtown School and regularly attended the St. James Mission Church on Vulcan Road.. He was married to Alice Auty (born in 1890 and died in 1971) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1915. Alice continued to live with her parents at 39, North Park Street, Dewsbury, as they were only married for two weeks before Lewis left for the front.

Prior to the outbreak of war he had served four years in the Territorials. He then joined the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 2232 and was sent to the Western Front on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1915. According to the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1915, he was serving in Flanders when he was seriously wounded in the stomach by shrapnel on 8<sup>th</sup> October and was taken to the 10<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding where he died of wounds on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1915. He was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Lewis was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 24 being unidentified.

Lewis 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. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. James Mission Church now relocated to Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

## Lewis Tinker

2232, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 11 October 1915 Age 24

Son of Walter and Elizabeth Tinker; husband of Alice Tinker, of 39, North Park St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.