



Lewis Rebbla Garside 1879 – 1916

Lewis was born in Batley on 7th May 1879 and baptised at St. John's Church, Carlinghow, Batley on 10th September 1885; his first name was registered as *Louis*. He was named after his maternal grandfather *Louis Rebella** who came from the island of Sardinia. His father was Joseph Garside, a Woollen Loom Turner born in Holmfirth in 1847 and died in 1909. His mother was Teresa Elizabeth (née Rebella, sometimes spelt Rebbla*) born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1938. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley in 1872.

Their other children were; Mary Ellen, born in 1872, Isaac Lewis, born in 1874 and died in 1877, John William, born in 1876 and died in 1877, Harry, born in 1881 and died of wounds 28th April 1917, Charles Henry, born in 1885 and died in 1887, Clara Ethel, born in 1883, Ernest, born in 1887 and died of sickness 18th October 1918, Martha Annie, born in 1890, Beatrice, born in 1892 and Mary Rose Anne, born in 1896.

Joseph was previously married on 3rd April 1867 to Martha Ann Mellor (born in 1848 and died in 1869) they had a daughter, Sarah Ellen born in 1868 and died in 1868.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Pit Road, North Street, Batley, in 1891 at 25, North Street, Batley and in 1901 at 19, Pit Lane, Batley. (Addresses as recorded).

After joining the Militia in 1896, on 10th August 1897 he attested as *Lewis Garside* into the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 4085 rising to the rank of Corporal. He served in the South Africa Campaign (2nd Boer War) from 28th February 1900 until 14th May 1902, being awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Cape Colony and Orange Free State and the King's South Africa Medal. He was finally discharged on 9th August 1903. After leaving the Army he worked as a Willyer, employed by Messrs Henry Burrows Ltd. He was married at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 24th December 1910 to Sarah Martha Petty (born in 1888 and died in 1963). They lived with Sarah's adoptive parents, Richard and Frances Greenwood at John Street, Ravensthorpe and later moved to 16, Charles Street, Ravensthorpe. They had two children; Nellie, born in 1911 and Joseph, born in 1913. Sarah was remarried in 1920 to Thomas Henry Ellis (born in 1892 and died in 1969). They lived at 1, Foundry Street, Ravensthorpe.

As a Reservist he was called up at the outbreak of war into the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 2303 rising to the rank of Corporal and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He wrote a long letter home which was featured in the Dewsbury Reporter on 11th September when his Battalion was stationed at Ypres. On 6th July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, the Battalion were now in the front-line trenches at Thiepval and established two bombing parties to advance the British line and push back the Germans. The following day's counter-action by the enemy inflicted heavy casualties through a combination of retaliatory bombing and sniping. The Battalion sustained 20 killed and 180 wounded during this action. According to newspaper reports, Lewis was part of the bombing party and his death was caused by an explosive bullet penetrating his head. His official date of death is 8th July 1916 though it may have occurred the day before. He was buried in the field and his remains were not found until 1931, when he was buried in Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Somme, France. Lewis was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St Saviour's Church and on the Batley War Memorial and on the Memorial Plaque in St. John's Church, Carlinghow, Batley and on the Memorial Plaque in Cross Bank Methodist Chapel, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of
Corporal
Lewis Garside

2303, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 July 1916 Age 37

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garside, of Batley; husband of Sarah Martha Ellis (formerly Garside), of 1, Foundry St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Serre Road Cemetery No.2



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

