



## **Martin Kelly**

### **1892 – 1916**

Martin was born at Thornton Street, Dewsbury on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1892. His father was Thomas Kelly, a bricklayer's labourer born in County Roscommon, Ireland around 1855 and died in 1932. His mother was Bridget (née McLoughlin) born in Killasser, County Mayo, Ireland around 1861 and died in 1899. They were married in St. Patricks R.C. Chapel, Heckmondwike on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1883. There are many spelling variations of Bridget's surname.

Their other children were; John Joseph, born in 1884, Ellen, born in 1887 and died in 1891, Patrick Joseph, born in 1889 and was killed in action 8<sup>th</sup> October 1918, Mary Ellen, born in 1894, William, born in 1897 and Honoria (Annie), born in 1899 and died in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 76, Thornton Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 Thomas is living at 108, Thornton Road with his sister Ellen and her husband Christopher Carrol; the whereabouts of his children has not been found. In 1911 Thomas is living with Martin and William at 10, Titus Hill, Westtown.

Martin was a single man who attended St. Paulinus School and was an altar server at the Church until he was 20 years-old. He later worked as a mill hand piecer at Headfield Mills, Savile Town.

He enlisted in April 1916 serving as Private 28109 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in the July of that same year. All four Kelly brothers served in the war, the newspapers describing them as a patriotic family. Martin was reported missing in action on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916 and after several months later, he was presumed to have died on that date. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Martin was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery. Loos-en-Gohelle is a village north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located 1 kilometre west of the village. The Loos Memorial commemorates 20,599 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay, from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war.

Martin is also 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 Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

**Martin Kelly**

26109, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 17 August 1916 Age 24

Son of Thomas M. Kelly, of IO, Titus Hill, West Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Loos Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

KELLY M.