



George Lee 1890-1921

George was born in Mirfield on 1st October 1890. His father was Ned Lee (sometimes known as *Edward J. Lee*), a Power Loom Tuner born in Mirfield in 1864 and died in 1908 (death surname registered as *Lees*). His mother was Sarah (nee Fitzpatrick) born in Belturbet, County Cavan, Ireland around 1863 and died in 1938. They were married on 28th June 1884 at Dewsbury All Saints Church.

Their other children were; Willie, born in 1885, Bernard Alfred, born in 1886, Elizabeth, born in 1888, Mary Catherine, born in 1893 and died in 1896, Edward Joseph Leo, born in 1895, Patrick Gabriel Joseph (birth and death surname registered as *Lees*), born in 1897 and died in 1897 and Gertrude, born in 1898.

On the 1891 Census the family are living at Wellhouse Lane, Mirfield, in 1901 at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at 13, Day Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1921 at 173, North Road, Ravensthorpe. On the 1911 Census Sarah signs her surname as *Lees*. There are discrepancies regarding her actual age: Her marriage record gives her age as 22 and on the 1891 census her age is given as 28, in 1901 her age is given as 39 and in 1911 as 48. The 1921 Census gives her age as 65 and her death record gives her age as 82. Why there is a later addition of 7 years to her age is unclear.

George was married in 1910 to Priscilla Gibson (born in 1888 and died in 1975). On the 1911 Census taken on 2nd April his occupation is a cloth finisher and they are living with his wife's family at 13, Thornville Walk, West Town, Dewsbury. They had two daughters; Madge, born in 1911 and Stella Helena, born in 1913.

He enlisted on 6th August 1915 and served in the 18th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps as Rifleman C/6775; he was wounded in 1916 which involved his repatriation to the Lord Derby War Hospital in Warrington from 12th October to 25th November 1916. After returning to the Western Front he was taken prisoner on 3rd May 1917 during the Battle of Bullecourt near Arras, France. German Prisoner of War records now available through the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland show that on 20th June 1917 he is held at a concentration camp in Saltau, Lower Saxony and on 27th December of that same year he is held at Hameln (Hamelin) about 80 miles further south. Both records state that he had been wounded in the right thigh and that his home address was 2, Pitt Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Released just prior to the Armistice, he wrote a letter to his wife and family dated 23rd October 1918 whilst on board the hospital ship SS "Sindoro" which was bound for the port of Boston, Lincolnshire. He was admitted to the 2nd London General Hospital in Chelsea on 22nd November 1918 and was discharged on 11th March 1919 as sick, being issued with Silver War Badge number B146930. He died at his home at 18, Cross Mount Street, Batley on 6th October 1921 from Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused by war service, his occupation was given as a poultry farm student. He is buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

George 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 Batley War Memorial.

He is one of six men named on the above who are not recorded as official war casualties due to their date of death being after the official Commonwealth War Graves Commission cut-off date of 31st August 1921.



Photographs by courtesy of the family of George Lee.