

William Edwin BRADSHAW
Rifleman (Lance Corporal) C/356
6th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps
Killed in action 15th July 1916
No known grave
Commemorated by name on
Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France
Pier & Face 13A/13B

William was born about 1895 in St. Thomas's parish, Ashton in Makerfield, the son of John and Eliza Ellen Bradshaw. The family lived at 26, Ashfield Cottages, Ashton in Makerfield (1901 Census). There were three older siblings, Annie, Herbert and Maggie and a younger brother, John Albert.

Army records show that William enlisted at Wigan and attested for 'short service' (usually for the duration of the war) on 19th September 1914. He states that his occupation is Grocer Warehouseman. His physical description says that he is 5 feet 8 inches tall, of fresh complexion with blue eyes and auburn hair and has some missing teeth. He was then aged 19 years and 117 days. He joined the Corps at Denham on 16th October 1914 and was appointed Lance Corporal, unpaid, on 30th April 1916.

William was to be involved in the first Battle of the Somme at which on the first day, 1st July 1916, there were 60,000 casualties. Of these, 20,000 were killed and the remainder wounded or missing. It would seem that William was killed shortly afterwards in a later action on 15th July 1916. Since his remains were never found and subsequently identified, his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial which commemorates those who were never identified for known burial in a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery.

The family would have been sent William's medals - the 1915 star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal, as well as the bronze death plaque inscribed with his name accompanied by a memorial scroll.