



Ernest Broadhead

1896 – 1917

Ernest was born on 29th July 1896 in Dewsbury and baptised St. John the Evangelist Church Dewsbury Moor on the 6th September 1896. His father was Tom Broadhead born in 1866 in Dewsbury, a self-employed Chartered Accountant with a business in Bond Street, Dewsbury who died in 1909. His mother was Annie (nee Armitage) born in 1864 in Dewsbury and died in 1921. They were married on 18th October 1892 in All Saints Parish Church, Dewsbury.

They had two other children; Harry, born 10th December 1894 and Nellie, born 19th November 1897. Ernest was a single man who at the early age of 14 had passed the preliminary examination for admission to the Chartered Accountants' Association. He was afterwards articled to Mr. Ernest Harrison of Bond Street, Dewsbury, with whom he was associated when the War broke out. This firm of Chartered Accountants was the same one where his late father, Tom, had worked. On the 1901 Census they lived at 2, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury, and in 1911 at 12, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and in 1917 at 377, Victoria Crescent, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Ernest served as Lance Corporal 19434 in the 7th Battalion Suffolk Regiment. The date of his attestation was the 17th September 1914, originally enlisting with the 20th Battalion of the Hussars, part of the 5th Cavalry Brigade. He was killed in action on Saturday 28th April 1917 On the day his battalion made an attack on the German held 'Bayonet' and 'Rifle' Trenches in front of their positions at Hulluch. The attack was to be made by the 5th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment with the Battalion taking over once the first objective had been taken.

The attack commenced at 4.25am with the Berkshire Regiment capturing Bayonet Trench and 150 yards of Rifle Trench without much difficulty. As the Battalion tried to pass through at 5.05am it met heavy machine gun fire from Rœux and was unable to continue to its objectives. Heavy casualties were taken consolidating the positions gained and attempting to take the rest of Rifle Trench. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ernest 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 Earlsheaton War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park, on the Oak Reredos in St Peter's Church, on the St Paul's Church War Memorial, Hanging Heaton and on the oak panel inside the Church of St Paul, on the Batley Grammar School War Memorial and his name was entered in the book 'Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev. W.R. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

He is also recorded in the book 'Batley Lads' the story of the men on the Roll of Honour at Batley Grammar School, who died in the Great War of 1914-1918 compiled by Philip L. Wheeler and his associates.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

Ernest Broadhead

19434, 7th Bn., Suffolk Regiment who died on 28 April 1917

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission