



Arnold Sheard

1897-1918

Arnold was born in Mirfield on 30th December 1897. His father was Herbert Sheard, a journeyman butcher and later a gateman born in Mirfield in 1878 and died in 1949. His mother was Bertha (nee Campbell) born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1943. They were married at St. Saviour's Parish Church, Ravensthorpe on 18th September 1897.

Their other children were; Colin, born in 1900, Ralph, born in 1903, Jack, born in 1906, Willie, born in 1909 and died in 1909 and Hettie, born in 1910.

On the 1901&1911 Census records the family lived at 2, Field Street, Ravensthorpe, although in 1911 his brother Colin was living with his maternal grandparents Ralph and Emily Campbell at 5, Myrtle Road, Ravensthorpe.

Arnold was a single man who was employed as a cloth finisher at Armitage and Rhodes Mill in Ravensthorpe.

He was called up to join the Northumberland Fusiliers but he must have been passed as unfit to serve overseas and was transferred to the Royal Defence Corps serving as Private 43062. On 11th March 1918 Arnold was admitted to the Military Hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, suffering from double pneumonia, he died three days later on 14th March 1918. He was buried in Mirfield (St. Mary's) Churchyard. As he did not see overseas service, Arnold did not qualify for any medal awards.

The Royal Defence Corps was a corps of the British Army formed in March 1916 and disbanded in 1936. It was initially formed by converting the (Home Service) Garrison battalions of line infantry regiments. Garrison battalions were composed of soldiers either too old or medically unfit for active front-line service; the Home Service status indicated they were unable to be transferred overseas. Eighteen battalions were converted in this way.

The role of the corps was to provide troops for security and guard duties inside the United Kingdom; guarding important locations such as ports or bridges. It also provided independent companies for guarding prisoner-of-war camps. The corps was never intended to be employed on overseas service.

Arnold is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

Arnold Sheard

43062, Royal Defence Corps who died on 14 March 1918 Age 20

Son of Herbert and Bertha Sheard, of 2, Field St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Mirfield (St. Mary) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

