



Dewsbury Spiritualist Church

'They gave their lives for their country in the Great War'



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES

PTE. ALBERT BROOKE'S END.

GUNSHOT WOUND IN THE BACK.

Another local member of the K.O.Y.L.I. has been killed and buried near the scene of the great slaughter that is going on in Flanders. We refer to Pte. Albert Brooke, who enlisted in the K.O.Y.L.I. on May 17th, 1915. His parents are dead, and he lived prior to May last year in Leeds Road, Dewsbury, behind the Crown Hotel, and he worked at Messrs. Crawshaw and Warburton's Chidswall pit as a minor. Whilst in training at Strensall his habits of marriage were duly published at the St. Philip's Church, Dewsbury, and on October 6th, 1915, he took to wife Miss Louisa Armitage, daughter of Mr. Joseph Armitage, the well-known former drummer of the Dewsbury Old Brass Band, who resides at 8, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr. Since his nuptials, Pte. Brooke has spent his brief spells of leave at Batley Carr, and made his home at his wife's father's, where we saw Mrs. Brooke on Wednesday, and gleaned a few particulars relative to his death. He arrived in France on February 27th, and until August 1st he had escaped injury. A week ago last Monday Mrs. Brooke received official intimation to the effect that her husband was lying dangerously ill in the No. 1 South African General Hospital, France. He was suffering from the effects of a gunshot wound in the back, which had injured his spine. He met his injury on August 1st, and on the 10th inst. Mrs. Brooke learned from the Territorial Records Office, York, that he died two days previously in the hospital named, Chaplain A. H. Cullen also wrote Mrs. Brooke twice, the first letter stating that the wound in her husband's back had brought about paralysis of the legs, but he kept up his spirits wonderfully well, and he was remarkably cheery amid his suffering. The chaplain's second communication contained the sad intelligence of Pte. Brooke's death and burial. The letter continued: "You must try, although it will be hard, to thank God that He has taken him so soon, for he would otherwise have borne months of suffering with the same end, after all." Chaplain Cullen enclosed a postcard which depicts the English portion of the cemetery in which Pte. Brooke's remains are laid.



Pte. Albert Brooke, K.O.Y.L.I., Batley Carr (killed).



A DEWSBURY SPIRITUALIST KILLED.

Deep sorrow will be felt when it becomes more widely known that Pte. Raymond Holdsworth (19), K.O.Y.L.I. (youngest son of Mr. and the late Mrs. H. Holdsworth, of 12, William Street, Leeds Road, Dewsbury), was killed in action on the 20th ult., as the official communication, received on Tuesday, testifies. He left his employment as goods porter at the L. and Y. Railway goods department, Dewsbury, in June of the present year to join the Army, and crossed the Channel in October. He was actively connected with the Bond Street Spiritualist Chapel, and was educated at the Batley Carr C.E. School, being a native of Batley Carr.

Another 19 years' old soldier, Private Wm. Henry Preston, East Yorks, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Preston, 6, Pickles Street, Batley Carr, is also reported by a Chaplain to have died of wounds. "He was wounded on August 5th by a fragment of shell, and died soon after admission to this hospital yesterday morning, September 6th." Although a wrong number is given, and his regiment is quoted as the East Lancs., it is feared the news must be correct by reason of the Chaplain having the home address. Private Preston, a native of Batley Carr, attended the Parish Church and Council Schools, and was also a former Parish Church choir boy. He was formerly employed by Messrs. Joshua Ellis and Co. in the stock place. His younger brother, Harry, is serving in the Warwickshire Yeomanry.