



Albert Henry Bird

1881 – 1916

Albert was born in Thornhill Lees on 28th April 1881 and baptised on 20th May 1881 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was Walter Bird, a Labourer at Chemical Works born at Bottesdale, Suffolk in 1836 and died in 1903. His mother was Laura (née Betts) born at Hartismere, Suffolk in 1841 and died in 1906. They were married at Hartismere in 1860.

Their other children, most of whom were born in Bottesdale were; Emma, born in 1861, Arthur John, born in 1863, William Christopher, born in 1865, Ellen Eliza, born in 1866, Margaret Ann, born in 1868, Henry Charles, born in 1871, Elizabeth Amelia, born in 1874, Selina Ruth, born in Savile Town in 1876 and died in 1877, David Friend, born in Savile Town in 1879 and Laura Ada, born in Thornhill Lees in 1883.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Berry Square, Thornhill Lees, in 1891 at 14, Dale Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1901 at 45, Dale Street.

Albert was a single man who in 1901 worked as a Glass Bottle Gatherer at Messrs Kilner Brothers in Thornhill Lees; in 1911 he was working as a Glass Blower living in Dartford, Kent.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in 1916 serving as Private 1900 in the 12th and later the 13th Battalions of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was transferred into the 3rd and later the 6th Battalions of the East Lancashire Regiment serving as Private 22420. He died of enteric fever in hospital at Poona (now Pune) in India on 21st October 1916. He is buried in Poona (St Sepulchre's) Cemetery, India where his body was reinterred in 1926. Albert must have been in a War Zone at some time, as he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Territorial Battalions in India generally experienced a movement of personnel, as drafts were provided for Regiments in Mesopotamia, and men transferred to specialist services. The Battalions in India in turn received drafts from Britain. As an example, the 1st/5th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry lost nearly half its original personnel in less than 3 years in India. Wounded and other ill soldiers from Mesopotamia were returned to India for treatment and convalescence. Sadly, some of these became part of the group of soldiers who died in India.

Albert is named on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

Due to some error when the above were inaugurated, Albert is recorded twice. Once under his correct name but also as "*A. Brid*".

In Memory of

Private

Albert Bird

22420, 6th Bn., East Lancashire Regiment who died on 21 October 1916

Remembered with Honour

Poona (St. Sepulchre's) Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the Asia War Graves Project.