



## **Arthur Collins**

### **1888 – 1917**

Arthur was born in Batley on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1888 and baptised on 2<sup>nd</sup> September of that year at Dewsbury Trinity Congregational Church. His father was John Collins, a gardener born in Halifax in 1853 and died in 1929. His mother was Emma (nee Horsfall) born in Ovenden, Halifax in 1853 and died in 1908; they were married at the Ebenezer Chapel, Halifax on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1879.

Their other children were; John William, born in 1882, Ann Elizabeth, born in 1883 and Sam, born in 1885 and died in 1892.

On the Census Records for 1881, 1891 and 1901 the family were living at Hyrstlands, Batley, the estate of Sir Mark Oldroyd M.P. and owner of Spinkwell Mills.

John was remarried in 1911 in Rotherham to Mary Ellen Boulton (born in 1874 and died in 1949). They lived at Hyrstlands and later at 4, West View, Salter Street, Batley Carr, Batley.

Arthur was educated at Purlwell Council School and worked as a commercial traveller for Henry Cullingworth & Sons; he was married in 1915 to Edith Harrop (born in 1887 and died in 1950), they had a daughter; Margaret, born in 1916 and lived at 1, Fairfield View, Thornhill Lees.

He served as Private 36019 in the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers, into which he attested under the Lord Derby Scheme on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1916. He died on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1917 as a result of malaria and dysentery in hospital in German East Africa (now Tanzania). He was buried in Morogoro Cemetery, Tanzania, Africa. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Morogoro town is situated 195 kilometres West of Dar-Es-Salaam. At the outbreak of the First World War Tanzania was the core of German East Africa. From the invasion of April 1915, Commonwealth forces fought a protracted and difficult campaign against a relatively small but highly skilled German force under the command of General von Lettow-Vorbeck. When the Germans finally surrendered on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1918, twelve days after the European armistice, their numbers had been reduced to 155 European and 1,168 African troops. Morogoro was occupied by Commonwealth forces on the 26 August 1916 and the German civil cemetery was taken over for Commonwealth war burials. Between the beginning of September 1916 and January 1919, 177 burials were carried out by the five medical units which were posted in the town and which were, at the outset, assisted by German medical personnel and civilians. After the Armistice, 169 graves were brought in from other burial grounds. There are now 384 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, 4 of which are unidentified.

Arthur is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

**Arthur Collins**

36019, 25th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 02 February 1917 Age 28

Son of John and Emma Collins, of "Hyrstlands," Batley, Yorks; husband of Edith Collins, of 1, Fairfield View, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Morogoro Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.