



Allen Aston

1895 - 1917

Allen was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was Steven Aston, a dyer's labourer born in 1865. His mother was Jane (nee Broadley) born in 1863. They were married on 20th April 1890 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

Their other children were; Clifford, born in 1890 and served in World War 1, Florrie, born in 1893, Mary Jane, born in 1900 and John, born in 1902.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 1, Kensington Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 15, Kensington Street.

Allen was a single man who was educated at Victoria Jubilee School and was associated with the Wesleyan Mission Room in Granville Street. He worked as a cloth spinner for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Woollen Manufacturers.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1916 serving as Private 202422 in the 2nd/4th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in January 1917. He was killed in action on a night patrol in Northern France on 13th March 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Allen was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His parents received a letter from him dated 3rd March saying: "*We have just come out of the trenches, and I am glad to say we did not suffer much, but it is all luck whether you get hurt or not*".

A Lieutenant Colonel wrote to his parents: "*He was killed during our recent return to the Front. I trust it will be a comfort to you to feel that he died as a brave and gallant English soldier fighting in defence of his home and country.*"

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Allen is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Allen Aston

202422, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 March 1917 Age 21

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Aston, of 15, Kensington St., Flatts, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

