



Ernest Broadhead

1896 – 1917

Ernest was born in Dewsbury on 29th July 1896 and baptised on 6th September 1896 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. His father was Tom Broadhead, a self-employed Chartered Accountant born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1909. His mother was Annie (nee Armitage) born in Dewsbury in 1864 and died in 1921. They were married on 18th October 1892 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

They had two other children; Harry, born in 1894 and Nellie, born in 1897.

On the 1901 Census they lived at 2, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury, and in 1911 at 12, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and later at 377, Victoria Crescent, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Ernest was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish School and Batley Grammar School where at the early age of 14 had passed the preliminary examination for admission to the Chartered Accountants' Association. He was afterwards articled to Mr. Ernest Harrison of Bond Street, Dewsbury, with whom he was associated when War broke out, and was the same firm where his late father, Tom, had worked. He was greatly interested in local football and was associated with St. Paul's Church in Hanging Heaton.

He attested on 17th September 1914, originally serving with the 20th Battalion of the Hussars, part of the 5th Cavalry Brigade but was transferred into the 7th Battalion Suffolk Regiment with the Service Number 19434 and rose to the rank of Lance Corporal. He served in Egypt and Salonica where he contracted enteric fever and after recuperating at home was sent to the Western Front in September 1916. He had been recommended for a commission and was due to return home for training but was killed in action during the Battle of Arras on 28th April 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Ernest was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On that day his battalion made an attack on the German held 'Bayonet' and 'Rifle' Trenches in front of their positions at Hulluch. The attack was to be made by the 5th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment with his Battalion taking over once the first objective had been taken. The attack commenced at 4.25am with the Berkshire Regiment capturing Bayonet Trench and 150 yards of Rifle Trench without much difficulty. As the Battalion tried to pass through at 5.05am it met heavy machine gun fire from Rœux and was unable to continue to its objectives. Heavy casualties were taken consolidating the positions gained and attempting to take the rest of Rifle Trench.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Ernest is also 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 Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the War Memorial in St. Paul's Churchyard, Hanging Heaton and on the oak panel inside the Church and on the Batley Grammar School War Memorial. His name was entered in the book 'Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev. W.R. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

He is also recorded in the book 'Batley Lads' the story of the men on the Roll of Honour at Batley Grammar School, who died in the Great War of 1914-1918 compiled by Philip L. Wheeler and his associates.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal

Ernest Broadhead

19434, 7th Bn., Suffolk Regiment who died on 28 April 1917

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

