



Arthur Armitage

1890 - 1917

Arthur was born in Dewsbury in 1890. His mother was Mary Elizabeth Armitage, born in Thornhill in 1872 and died in 1920. In 1891 they lived with Mary's parents and family at 6, Fearnley Street, Dewsbury.

Mary was married in 1892 to John Thompson (born in 1871 and died in 1931). They had 12 children; Harriet Emma, born in 1893, Nellie, born in 1894 and died in 1907, Charles Edward, born in 1896, Louisa Constance, born in 1897, Percy, born in 1899 and died in 1900, Gladys, born in 1900, Alva, born in 1902, Philip, born in 1903, John Walter, born in 1905, Ernest, born in 1906, Gordon, born in 1908 and Ethel, born in 1910.

Arthur was brought up by his grandparents. On the 1901 Census he is living with them at 9, Quarry Hill, Westtown, in 1911 he lived with his aunt, Mrs Sophie Hemingway and her family at 5, Whiteheads Buildings, Dewsbury. His occupation is shown as a labourer in lead boiling.

Arthur was a single man who was educated at Westtown Church of England Day School and Sunday school. Prior to enlistment he worked for Messrs Birkhead and Company, Shoddy Merchants, Scout Hill, Dewsbury.

He enlisted on 2nd November 1915 serving as Private 6945 in the 6th Battalion Connaught Rangers, and was found on that date to be fit for home service only, because of a stiffness of the hand problem. However, he embarked for France and landed at Etaples on February 1916 and was later wounded and admitted to hospital. He came home on leave in October 1917. He was killed in action in France on 21st December 1917 and was buried by the enemy in Ronssoy Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ronssoy is a village situated in the far north-eastern corner of the Department of the Somme, 20 kilometres north-north-west of St Quentin. Ronssoy was captured by the 7th Royal West Kent on the 18th September, 1918. The Communal Cemetery had been used by German troops, and eight United Kingdom soldiers were buried by them. The rest were buried by British troops in September and October, 1918. There are now over 40, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number 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 in Irelands Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of

Private

A Armitage

6945, 6th Bn., Connaught Rangers who died on 21 December 1917 Age 28

Native of Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Ronssoy Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

