



Leonard Lee

1894 – 1917

Leonard was born in Leeds in 1894. His father was George Lee, a coal miner born in Dewsbury around 1862 and died in 1915 in a pit accident at Yorkshire Main Colliery in Doncaster. His mother was Annie (nee Griffiths) born in Liverpool around 1866 and died in 1924. They were married on 5th July 1890 at the Ebenezer Chapel, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Lydia, born in 1895, Charlie, born in 1897 and served in World War 1, Willie, born in 1898 and served in World War 1, Robert, born in 1901, Arthur, born in 1905 and died in 1907 and Ada, born in 1906.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 5, Kaye Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at South Lane, Netherton near Wakefield and later at 6, George Street, Dewsbury and then 12, Crescent Place, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury.

Leonard was a single man who was educated at St. Mary's Church School in Savile Town and attended the Church and Sunday school. He worked as a coal miner,

He attested in Doncaster on 10th November 1914 serving as Private 17030 in "B" Company 14th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in April 1915. He was wounded in July 1916 and came home on leave in November, returning to the Front in December. He was killed in action in France on 13th June 1917 during the aftermath of the Battle of Arras. He was buried in Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy, Pas-de-Calais, France. Leonard was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

St. Laurent-Blangy is a village adjoining the north-east side of Arras. Bailleul Road East Cemetery was begun in April 1917 and after the Armistice by the concentration of isolated graves from a very wide area North, East and South of Arras. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified, and seven special memorials record the names of soldiers from the United Kingdom buried in Northumberland Cemetery, Fampoux, whose graves could not be found on concentration; and a number of graves are marked by headstones bearing the additional words, "Buried near this spot". Every year of the war is represented in the cemetery, but more particularly the last nine months of 1917.

Leonard 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 from the now demolished St. Marys Church, Savile Town is now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Leonard Lee

17030, "B" Coy. 14th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 13 June 1917 Age 23

Son of the late George and Annie Lee.

Remembered with Honour

Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.