



## **Arnold Brooke Brearey**

### **1895 – 1917**

Arnold was born in Soothill Upper in 1895. His father was Ernest Brearey, a self employed milk vendor, born in Batley Carr in 1868 and died in 1956. His mother was Emily (nee Brooke) born in Dewsbury in 1874 and died in 1956. They were married in 1895.

Their other children were; Gladys, born in 1897, Annie, born in 1901 and Mabel, born in 1905.

In 1901 the family lived at Warwick Road, Batley Carr, where Ernest was a grocer/shopkeeper, in 1911 the family lived at “Deanroyd” Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Arnold was a single man who worked as a clerk in the woollen manufacturing trade. He was a Cashier at Mark Oldroyd’s Spinkwell Mill Dewsbury and taught Shorthand and Typing at Dewsbury Technical College. He was an ardent member of the Leeds Road Baptist Church where he was a Sunday school teacher and was described as:” *an untiring worker for the Christian Endeavour Society, a member of the Young Men’s Class and Registrar for the League of Young Worshippers*”.

He attested in January 1916 serving as Private 21/546 in the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s Own) and was sent to the Western Front in June 1916. He was killed in action on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1917 when a mortar shell hit his group who were working near the Front Line, during the aftermath of the Battle of Arras. He was buried in St. Nicolas British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Arnold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

St. Nicolas is a village adjoining the city of Arras on the north side. St. Nicolas British Cemetery lies along a footpath to the south of the Rue D’Enfer, which joins the road to Roclincourt. From March 1916 to the Armistice, the village of St. Nicolas was occupied by Commonwealth forces and for much of that time it was within the range of German artillery fire. The cemetery was started in March 1917 and used by the divisions and field ambulances stationed there until October 1918. St Nicolas British Cemetery contains 364 First World War burials.

Arnold is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Arnold Brearley* on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Baptist Church.

In Memory of

Private

# Arnold Brooke Brearey

21/546, 21st Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 16 June 1917 Age 21

Son of Ernest and Emily Brearey, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

St. Nicolas British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

