



Albert Robinson

1885 – 1917

Albert was born in Dewsbury on 30th October 1885 and was baptised at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green, Dewsbury on 20th November 1889. His father was Joseph Robinson, an Engine Fitter born in Dewsbury in 1855 and died in 1922. His mother was Margaret Ann (nee Firth) born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1910. They were married in All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 1st January 1878.

Their other children were; Benjamin, born in 1878, Firth, born in 1879, James Arthur, born in 1883, Mary Alice, born in 1884, Fred, born in 1887, Allan, born in 1889 and William, born in 1897.

On the 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 12, Back Whitley Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Albert was a single man who was educated at Boothroyd Lane School and attended St. John Baptist Church in Daw Green. He was apprenticed to Mr. Blackburn, a Plumber and Glazier in Nelson Street, Dewsbury and subsequently for Mr. J.E. Talbot and then Mr. Frank Newsome of Union Street, Dewsbury. Albert was a keen trade unionist and had played a leading part in a local plumbers' strike, when he had been President of the local branch.

He was called up in June 1916 but was 'bitterly opposed' to the war. He served as Sapper 178258 in the 91st Field Company Royal Engineers. During training at Llandudno he had the intention of becoming an Instructor, but was sent to the Western Front in December 1916. He had a lucky escape in April 1917 when he was completely buried after an explosive shell landed nearby and with great difficulty he managed to free himself. Sadly, his luck ran out and he died of wounds on 8th July 1917 in the Third Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, near Remy in Belgian Flanders. Two days earlier, he had been hit in the arm, chest and abdomen by parts of an old shell, which exploded whilst he and his party were working to clear an old house. He was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 24 being unidentified.

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

In Memory of

Sapper

Albert Robinson

178258, 91st Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 08 July 1917 Age 31

Son of Joseph and Margaret Ann Robinson, of 12, Whitley St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.