



## **Joseph Alfred (Alf) Wood**

### **1889 – 1917**

Joseph Alfred, known as Alf was born in Batley Carr in 1889 and baptised in Holy Trinity Church on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July that same year. His father was Wilson Wood, a Power Loom Tuner born in Saddleworth, Yorkshire in 1855 and died in 1929. His mother was Selina (nee Blackburn) born in Batley Carr in 1856 and died in 1932. They were married in All Saints Church, Batley on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1877.

Their other children were; Elizabeth Ann, born in 1877, Shaw, born in 1880 and served in World War 1 and Edith, born in 1886.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census records the family lived at 14, Albert Street, Batley, in 1901 and 1911 at Soothill Terrace, Ward Street, Crackenedge and later at 28, Stonehyrst Avenue, Crackenedge.

Alf was a single man who was employed as a Shop Assistant at Mr. Ernest Goodall's Leather Works. He was the secretary of the Dewsbury Tuesday Cricket Club but was also a well-known and accomplished vocalist and light comedian with the Dewsbury Amateur Light Operatic and Dramatic Society, being described as "*clever and spritely*" and gaining many accolades for his performances.

He served as Private 202232 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with a previous service number 5083. He was killed in action near Bullecourt after being hit by a shell splinter whilst on outpost duty during the Battle of Arras at the beginning of the third Battle of the Scarpe. He was buried in the field but his grave must have been lost or destroyed in later battles as his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. Alf was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

Alf is also commemorated as Joseph Alfred Wood 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 All Saints Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of

Private

## Joseph Alfred Wood

202232, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 03 May 1917 Age 27

Son of Wilson and Selina Wood, of 28, Stonehyrst Avenue, Crackenedge, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

