



## **William Ewart Moffatt**

### **1893 – 1917**

William was born in Dewsbury on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1893 and baptised on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1896 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His father was William Moffatt, a Tailor born in Dewsbury in 1854 and died in 1922. His mother was Hannah (nee Norris) born in Wakefield in 1864 and died in 1911. They were married on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1883 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Harry, born in 1884, Arthur, born in 1885, Wilfred, born in 1887 and died in 1891, Albert, born in 1889, Percy, born in 1892 and died in 1896, Lawrence, born in 1896 and died in 1899, Gladys, born in 1899 and died in 1899 and Ernest, born in 1902.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records, the family lived at 9, Back Cliffe Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 13, Back Cliffe Street.

William was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and attended Eastborough Methodist Sunday school. He was employed as a Mule Minder at Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons Spinkwell Mills.

He enlisted in April 1916 and serving as Private 241189 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He was wounded in the neck and was hospitalised in Scotland and came home on leave at Christmas 1916; after further training at Catterick Bridge he returned to the Front and received gunshot wounds to the chest on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1917 and died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1917 at No 22 General Hospital at Camiers on the French Coast. He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. The Military Cemetery is to the north of the town. During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. Ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern and the southern battlefields. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. 35 of these burials are unidentified.

William 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 Memorial Plaque to former pupils of Eastborough Council School and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

## William Ewart Moffatt

241189, 1st/5th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 05 May 1917

Remembered with Honour

Etaples Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.