



## **Robert Henry Broomhead**

### **1886 - 1917**

Robert was born in Batley Carr on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1886. His father was Walter Broomhead, a General Dealer born at Brierley near Hemsworth in 1860 and died in 1928. His mother was Pickaloma Minnie (nee Clayton) variously recorded as '*Minnie*', '*Minney*' or '*Picalo Minnie*' born in 1861 and died in 1904.

Their other children were; twins Florence, born in 1885 and died in 1885, Emily, born in 1885 and died in 1886, Amy Isabella, born in 1887 and Susannah, born in 1894 and died in 1896.

In 1891 they lived at Dale Street, Batley, in 1901 at 72, Town Street, Batley Carr, in 1911 at 1 West Street, Batley Carr and later at West Cottages, Warwick Road, Batley Carr.

Walter was remarried in 1909 to a widow, Ada Kilburn nee Spurr (born in 1865 and died in 1926) but by 1911 they were living apart. He was remarried again in 1927 to Emma Taylor (born in 1875 and died in 1931).

Robert assisted in his father's business of General Dealer in Glass, China and Hardware and he travelled the district in a cart. He was married in Dewsbury on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1911 to Sarah Eliza Tate (born in Berlin, Germany in 1889 and died in 1976). They had a son, John Robert, born in Dewsbury in 1913 and lived at 2, Asco Place, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1916 serving as Private 33273 in 'W' Company 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was billeted at North Ferriby near Hull; he was sent to the Western Front in October 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1917, his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Robert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

It was not until July 1918 that his wife received official notice of his death from the War Office. He regularly sent letters home to his parents, a few being published in the Dewsbury Reporter newspaper. The letters reveal a man of extreme bravery, with a hearty disrespect for the enemy.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Robert was also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour located in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Batley War Memorial and on the War Memorial to former pupils in Warwick Road, School.

In Memory of

Private

## Robert Henry Broomhead

33273, "W" Coy. 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 24 August 1917 Age 29

Son of Walter Broomhead, of West Cottages, Warwick Rd., Batley Carr, Dewsbury, and the late Minnie Broomhead; husband of Sarah Eliza Broomhead, of 2, Asco Place, Wakefield Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

