

Albert Hardy 1889 - 1917

Albert was born in Earlsheaton on 21st April 1889. His father was George Hainsworth Hardy, a Woollen Cloth Miller born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1936. His mother was Sarah (nee Smith) born 31st January 1864 and died in 1935. They were married on 10th January 1885 in All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Wilson, born in 1885 and served in World War 1, Arthur, born in 1887 and died in 1888, Gertrude, born in 1894 and died in 1894 and Annie, born in 1898.

On the 1891 Census the family lived in Back Barber Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Middle Road, Earlsheaton and in 1911 he was a boarder at Preston's Buildings, Low Road, Earlsheaton.

Albert was a single man who was educated at Earlsheaton Church School and attended St. Peter's Church where he was a chorister. His father George was a well-known local bell-ringer. He was at one time employed by Messrs. Abraham Preston and Sons, Little Royd Mills, Earlsheaton. He later moved to Wath-upon-Dearne near Barnsley where he worked as a miner

He had served for 11 years with the Territorials and was in the Wath detachment when war broke out; he enlisted in the 1st/5th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment serving as Private 240225 and was sent to the Western Front in April 1915. He was killed in action on 21st October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. He was repairing a telephone line which had been broken by shell-fire and a flying piece of bursting shell entered his side. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Albert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 16th 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.

Albert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton.



