



Albert Edward Marshall DCM

1896 - 1917

Albert was born in Batley Carr on 11th April 1896. His father was William Edward Marshall, a mechanic who was born in South Milford near Selby in 1871 and died in 1941. His mother was Hannah Elizabeth (nee Bunting) born in 1874 and died in 1924. They were married in All Saints Church, Batley on 13th August 1892.

Their other children were; Ethel, born in 1892, Sam, born in 1894 and served in the Heckmondwike Battery in World War 1, Edith, born in 1897, Doris, born in 1899, Frank, born in 1901, Tom, born in 1903 and died in 1904, Leonard, born in 1905, and died in 1906, Lilian, born in 1907 and died in 1909, Leonora, born in 1909, Jack, born in 1912, Stella, born in 1914, Fred, born in 1917 and died in 1917 and Mildred, born in 1919.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 28, Victoria Street, Batley, in 1911 at 53, Fenton's Buildings, Bradford Road, Batley and later at 34, Pyrah Street, Carlton Road, Dewsbury.

Albert was single man whose occupation 1911 was recorded as a mechanic. He attended Holy Trinity Church in Batley Carr.

He enlisted as a Territorial in the Heckmondwike Battery in April 1913, soon after his 17th birthday. He served in the Royal Field Artillery "B" Battery, 246th Brigade with the Service Numbers 1155 and later 780148. The Battery was sent to the Western Front in April 1915. He was promoted to Serjeant in April 1916 at the age of only 20. His elder brother Sam was already a member of the Battery. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry at Mesnil during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916. The citation which appeared in the "London Gazette" dated 20th October 1916 reads as follows; *"for conspicuous gallantry during operations. When the battery was heavily shelled he ran from gun-pit to gun-pit dragging the wounded to safety and assisting the Medical Officer. He twice ran straight across the open under very heavy shell fire in order to fetch stretchers as quickly as possible."* He was killed in action on 2nd October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele and is buried in Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. In addition to the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery is located 5 Kms west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. For much of the First World War, the village of Vlamertinghe (now Vlamertinge) was just outside the normal range of German shell fire and the village was used both by artillery units and field ambulances. Burials were made in the original Military Cemetery until June 1917, when the New Military Cemetery was begun in anticipation of the Allied offensive launched on this part of the front in July. Although the cemetery continued in use until October 1918, most of the burials are from July to December 1917. The cemetery now contains 1,812 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Albert 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 War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of

Serjeant

Albert Edward Marshall

D C M

780148, "B" Bty. 246th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 02 October 1917 Age 21

Son of William Edward and Hannah Elizabeth Marshall, of Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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