



Arthur Williamson Tolley

1894 - 1917

Arthur was born at Albion Street, Dewsbury on 16th October 1894 and baptised on 3rd May 1905 at St. Mark's Church, Dewsbury. His father was William Tolley (birth name registered as *Charles Tolley*), a Dyers Labourer born in Dewsbury in 1864 and died in 1913. His mother was Clara (nee Thackrah) born in Batley in 1867 and died in 1931. They were married on 28th May 1887.

Their other children were; Edith, born in 1887, Oldroyd, born in 1889 and served in the Royal Flying Corps in World War 1, Ellen, born in 1892, Charles Ernest, born in 1900, Herbert, born in 1902, Emily, born in 1905 and Florence, born in 1907.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Albion Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 5, Wellington Place, Eightlands, Dewsbury and later at Scargill Street, Eightlands.

Arthur was a single man who was educated at Carlton Street School and became an errand boy for Miss Smith, Confectioner of Halifax Road, Dewsbury before joining Messrs J and R Middlewoods, Hirstland Mill where he was a Sawyer's Labourer and later he became associated with Andrews' Pictures Exhibition where his father had worked up to his death.

He enlisted on 2nd March 1917 serving as Private 34069 in the 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. He went to Pontefract and then to Catterick Bridge and was sent to the Western Front on 12th March 1917, transferring to the 45th Company Labour Corps as Private 26799. He was killed in action by a bomb during the Battle of Passchendaele on 29th October 1917. He was buried in Voormezeelle Enclosures No.1 and No. 2 in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His Army records show his middle name as William.

Voormezeelle Enclosures Nos.1 and 2 are located 4 Kms south-west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre, in the village of Voormezeelle. The Voormezeelle Enclosures (at one time, there were a total of four, but now reduced to three) were originally regimental groups of graves, begun very early in the First World War and gradually increased until the village and the cemeteries were captured by the Germans after very heavy fighting on 29th April 1918. No.1 and No.2 are now treated as a single cemetery. There are now 593 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 40 of the burials are unidentified and 14 graves destroyed by shell fire are represented by special memorials.

Arthur 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 Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Arthur William Tolley

34069, 6th Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 29 October 1917 Age 21

Son of Mrs. Clara Tolley, of 5, Wellington Place, Eightlands, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Voormezele Enclosures No.1 and No.2



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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