



Arthur Lightfoot **1893 – 1917**

Arthur was born in Dewsbury on 30th January 1893. His father was John Lightfoot, a Warehouse Foreman at Savile Town Wharf born in Knottingley in 1855 and died in 1919. His mother was Ellen (nee Hanson) born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1957. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 3rd March 1879.

Their other children were; Elizabeth Ellen, born in 1880 and died in 1916, Albert, born in 1881, Florence Amelia, born in 1883, Harry, born in 1885 and served in World War 1, Annie, born in 1887, Clara, born in 1889, Ernest, born in 1891 and died of wounds 9th July 1916, Fred, born in 1895 and died in 1895, Arnold, born in 1896 and was killed in action 9th October 1917, Ivy, born in 1898 and Dora, born in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Fearnley Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Navigation Yard, Savile Town and in 1911 at 104, Warren Street, (The Wharf) Savile Town.

Arthur was a single man who was educated at St. Mary's Church Day School in Savile Town and attended the Church and Sunday school. He worked in Mr. W. Hodgson & Sons Timber Yard in Savile Town and for the last few months before enlisting he drove a motor wagon for Messrs Fenton & Sons.

He enlisted on January 28th 1916 serving as Private 128568 in "A" Special Company Royal Engineers,. He was killed when a shell fell on him on 11th August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele; he was taken to a Casualty Clearing Station near Proven but was either dead on arrival or later died of wounds. He was buried in Mendinghem Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mendinghem Military Cemetery is located 17 Kms north-west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre on the road connecting Ieper to Poperinge and on to Oost-Cappel. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven and this site was chosen for its cemetery. In July 1917, four further clearing stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front and three of them, the 46th, 12th and 64th, stayed until 1918. From May to July 1918, while the German offensive was at its height, field ambulances were posted at Proven. There are now 2,391 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery.

Arthur 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

In Memory of

Private

Arthur Lightfoot

128568, "A" Special Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 11 August 1917 Age 24

Son of Ellen Lightfoot, of 104, Warren St., Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Mendingham Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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