



Heckmondwike Upper Independent Chapel

'In honoured memory of service and sacrifice'
Two Dewsbury brothers appear on this memorial



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES

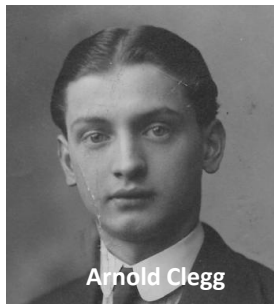
Rupert Clegg – 1888 – 1916

Rupert was born on the 1st March 1888 in Batley. He lived at various addresses, in 1901 he was in Occupation Lane Staincliffe, in 1911 83, Healds Road and in 1916 184 Halifax Rd, Heckmondwike. His parents were Arthur James Clegg, a rag merchant born in Batley 1857 and died in 1949 and his wife Emma (Nee Armitage) who had been married at Kirkheaton in 1882. Rupert was unmarried and worked as a rag sorter and later as a clerk, He had several siblings: - Ethel Mabel b. Heckmondwike 1884, Gertrude Isobel b. Kirkheaton 1886, Marion 1888, Adelaide 1891 and Arnold born in 1893 and died of wounds 29th September 1918 and Rosemund born in 1897 and died in 1900.

Rupert served in the Army as Private 82044 in the 5th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry, the Saskatchewan Regiment into which he attested in March 1916 at Shorncliffe Kent at the age of 28. He was initially assigned to the 32nd Reserve Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and proceeded on draft to the 5th Battalion on 16th May 1916, which was a volunteer group as conscription was not introduced until 1918. The Canadians fought around Thiepval and at the end of the month around Courcellette where on the 27th of the month Rupert lost his life. He is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph and the Dewsbury Roll of Honour safeguarded in Dewsbury Central Library, He is honoured by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and to be found on the Vimy Memorial which overlooks the Plain of Douai which was erected to the memory of the 60,000 Canadian Troops who lost their lives in Western Europe, many of them unknown. He is also commemorated on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor, the Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike and in the Canadian Books of Remembrance, Parliament Hill, Ottawa.



Rupert Clegg



Arnold Clegg

Arnold Clegg – unfortunately we cannot find a photograph 1893-1918

Arnold was born in Dewsbury on 21st February 1893; his full birth name was Abraham Arnold Clegg. His father was Arthur James Clegg, a rag merchant born in Batley 1857 and died in 1949. His mother was Emma (nee Armitage) born in Kirkheaton in 1862 and died in 1947. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church, Kirkheaton on 25th May 1882.

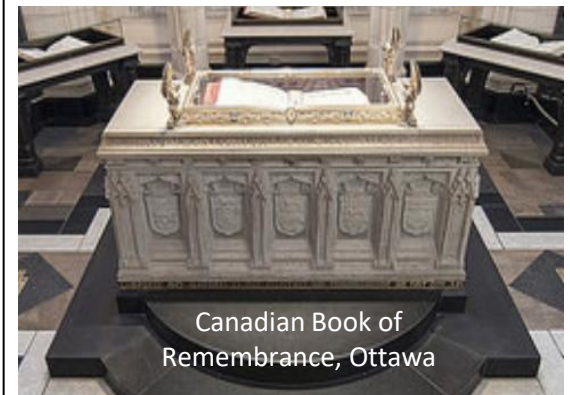
Their other children were; Ethel Mabel, born in Heckmondwike in 1884, Gertrude Isobel, born in Kirkheaton in 1886, Rupert, born in Batley in 1888 and was killed in action 27th September 1916, Marion, born in Batley in 1888, Adelaide, born in Drax in 1891, and Rosemund, born in Batley in 1897 and died in 1900. On the 1891 Census the family lived in at Brockhole Farm, Drax near Selby, in 1901 at 131, Occupation Lane, Staincliffe and in 1911 at 83, Healds Road, Dewsbury.

Arnold was single man who in 1911 worked as a Grocery Assistant at the Cooperative Wholesale Society. He later emigrated to Canada and lived at 139, South Brodie Street, Fort William, Ontario.

He enlisted into the Canadian Infantry on 3rd January 1918 at Fort Arthur, Ontario serving as Private 2383388 in the 52nd Battalion Manitoba Regiment, giving his occupation as a Farmer. He arrived in England on 19th April 1918 and then France on 29th August 1918. He suffered a shrapnel wound to the abdomen on 29th September 1918 and was dead on admission at the 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Duisans; he was buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas-de-Calais, France. Arnold was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Canadian Silver Cross (Mothers Medal).

Duisans is a village about 9km west of Arras. The site of this cemetery was selected for the 8th Casualty Clearing Station in February 1917, and burials started in March. It grew very quickly with burials from the 8th, 19th and 41st CCSS. Most graves relate to the Battles of Arras in 1917 and the trench warfare which followed. In the autumn of 1918 there were two Canadian CCSS at Duisans. The cemetery contains 3207 Commonwealth graves from World War I.

Arnold 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor, the Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike and in the Canadian Books of Remembrance, Parliament Hill, Ottawa.



Canadian Book of Remembrance, Ottawa