



## Arthur William Bailey

### 1882-1918

Arthur was born in Thornhill Lees in 1882. His father was William Bailey, a gardener born in Winship, Montgomeryshire, Wales around 1848 and died in 1890. His mother was Harriet (nee Morgan) born in Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire in 1847 and died in 1924. They were married on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1879 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

Their other children were; John Alfred, born in 1880 and died in 1883, Ethel Annie, born in 1884 and Ernest Harold, born in 1887.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at Thomas Street off Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1901 at Brewery Lane, Thornhill Lees.

Arthur was educated at Walker's Endowed School, Thornhill, he worked as a Domestic Gardener and was married in Grimsby in 1909 to Florence Ballans (born in Grimsby in 1885 and died in 1955); on the 1911 Census they lived at 11, Edgerton Cottages, Edgerton, Huddersfield and had three daughters; Ethel, born in 1910, Edith Winifred, born in 1912 and Dorothy, born in 1915. They later lived at 19, Croft House Lane, Marsh, Huddersfield.

He enlisted in Huddersfield in September 1916 into the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with the Service Number 29406 and was later transferred to "A" Company 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) serving as Private 67294. He was taken prisoner on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918, the First Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*) and died of Diphtheria in a German Hospital in Rumaucourt, France on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1918. He was originally buried in Rumaucourt German Cemetery but in 1924 he was one of 27 men whose remains were reburied in Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, on the road from Arras to Cambrai. They were taken by the Canadian Corps on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1918. The Cemetery is at the north side of the main road between the two villages and was begun immediately afterwards and was used by fighting units and field ambulances until the middle of October. It consisted originally of 430 graves of which 297 were Canadian and 55 belonged to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Wellington's Regiment. It was increased after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields of April-June 1917, August and September 1918, and from the smaller cemeteries in the neighbourhood.

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 in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Blacker Road, Gledholt, Huddersfield.

In Memory of  
Private  
**Arthur William Bailey**

67294, "A" Coy. 6th Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 19 June 1918 Age 36

Son of William and Harriet Bailey; husband of Florence Bailey, of 76, Hollin Terrace, Marsh, Huddersfield.

Remembered with Honour  
**Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.