



## Arthur Heaton

### 1897-1918

Arthur was born in Hanging Heaton on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1897. His father was Walter Heaton, a Grocery Assistant and later a Manager born in Hanging Heaton in 1875 and died in 1912. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Hepworth) born in Dewsbury in 1875 and died in 1912. They were married in 1897.

Their other children were; Edgar, born in 1899 and served in World War 1, Ella, born in 1902, Amy, born in 1907 and died in 1908 and Emilia, born in 1911.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Commonsides, Hanging Heaton and in 1911 at 16, Stoneyhurst Avenue, Crackenedge, Dewsbury.

Arthur was a single man who was educated at Mill Lane Council School and in 1911 worked as a Tailor and Outfitter; in 1916 he was on the Clerical Staff at Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Queen Street Mills. He was also the Assistant Secretary at the Springfield Congregationalist Church.

He enlisted in September 1916 serving as Gunner 196779 in "D" Battery 285<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He died in a hospital at Doullens, France on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1918 from wounds to his abdomen & hand sustained during the later stages of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). He was buried in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 2, Somme, France. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Doullens is a town in the Department of the Somme, approximately 30 kilometres north of Amiens on the road to Arras. The Communal Cemetery and Extensions lie on the eastern side of the town. In March 1916, the 19<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station came to Doullens, followed by the 41<sup>st</sup>, the 35<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>. By the end of 1916, these had given way to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital (which stayed until June 1918) and the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Northumbrian Casualty Clearing Station. From February 1916 to April 1918, these medical units continued to bury in the French extension (No.1) of the communal cemetery. In March and April 1918 the German advance and the desperate fighting on this front threw a severe strain on the Canadian Stationary Hospital. The extension was filled, and a second extension begun on the opposite side of the communal cemetery. The Communal Cemetery Extension No.2 contains 374 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcausway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Gunner

**A Heaton**

196779, "D" Bty. 285th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 26 May 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.2**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.