



## Norris Benjamin Batley

### 1898-1918

Norris was born in Huddersfield in 1898. His father was Randolph Batley, a Warehouseman in a woollen mill born in Lindley, Huddersfield in 1870 and died in 1948. His mother was Lucy (nee Overton) born in Whitkirk, Leeds in 1871 and died in 1932. They were married at the Queen Street Wesleyan Chapel, Huddersfield on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1895.

Their other children were; Annie, born in Huddersfield in 1896 and Edith, born in Dewsbury in 1902.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at 11, Trinity Place, Ashworth Road, Dewsbury.

Norris was a single man who was attached to the Ebenezer United Congregational Church and was a primary teacher at the Sunday school and was the honourable secretary of the Band of Hope; he was also a member of Dewsbury Central Liberal Club. He worked in the clerical department of the Midland Railway Company at Mill Street West, Dewsbury.

He enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1917 serving as Private 205258 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front in July that same year. He was slightly wounded in the arm and was gassed, which caused him to lose his voice for four days. He was seriously wounded in northern France at the beginning of November 1918 and was confined to a Casualty Clearing Station at Cambrai; a Chaplain wrote to his parents on 4<sup>th</sup> November saying; "*he is holding his own and is having all the care and attention, and says you must not worry*" this was followed by a field-card dated the 5<sup>th</sup> November in his own handwriting, though written with obvious difficulty. His parents then received a telegram stating that he had died of his wounds on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1918; he was buried in Cambrai East Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Norris was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Chaplain wrote again telling that he had nine perforations of the stomach and blood poisoning had set in before his wounds could heal, adding; "*he was cheerful and patient and brave to the end, and I am sure he now enjoys the rest and blessing which his noble sacrifice deserves*".

When Cambrai was retaken on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1918, two Casualty Clearing Stations were later posted to the town, the 30<sup>th</sup> CCS in October 1918 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> CCS in November 1918. Cambrai East Military Cemetery now contains 501 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 28 of the graves are unidentified.

Norris 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 Memorial Plaque in the Dewsbury Ebenezer Congregational Church, now known as Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist) and on the Victoria School Memorial Plaque and on the Dewsbury Central Liberal Club brass tablet memorial. The latter two are now missing.

In Memory of

Private

# Norris Benjamin Batley

205258, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 06 November 1918 Age 20

Son of Randolph and Lucy Batley, of 11, Trinity Place, Ashworth Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Cambrai East Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

