



Edgar Armitage

1876-1914

Edgar was born in Huddersfield on 9th June 1876 and was baptised at St. Philip's Church, Dewsbury on 4th February 1879. His father was George Armitage, a Woollen Printer's Warehouseman born in Lockwood, Huddersfield in 1845 and died in 1892. His mother was Jane (nee Sykes) born in Newsome, Huddersfield in 1849 and died in 1920. They were married at St. Paul's Church, Huddersfield on 16th May 1869.

Their other children were; Thomas Henry, born in Huddersfield in 1871, Oscar, born in Birstall in 1874, John Willie, born in Dewsbury in 1881 and Sykes, born in Dewsbury in 1887.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Marriott Street, Dewsbury and in 1891 at Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Jane was remarried in 1894 to William Naylor; in 1901 they lived at Albert Street, Batley.

Edgar's first occupation was as a Coal Miner, he was married to Frances Emily Buckley (born in 1878 and died in 1955) on 19th April 1904 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton; they lived at 2, Tattersfield Yard, Staincliffe, Batley and had two daughters; Eleanor, born in 1905 and Nellie, born in 1911.

He enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 8th December 1893 with the Service Number 4474. His records state that he was 5ft. 7½ in. tall and weighed 129 pounds, his chest expanded from 32½ inches to 35, his complexion was fresh and his eyes and hair was brown in colour. He was appointed as a Bugler on 2nd December 1895 and served in the East Indies from 1st March 1898 until 16th February 1899, on the island of Mauritius from 17th February 1899 until 6th October 1899 then in South Africa from 7th October 1899 until 27th March 1902 and again from 1st July 1902 until 29th October 1902, when he returned to Home Service. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with 4 Clasps for Belmont, Modder River, Wittebergen and Transvaal and also the King's South Africa Medal with 2 Clasps for service in the South Africa Campaign (Boer War). His military service had spanned 16 years. He initially signed on for a period of service of 12 years, but in 1902 he was permitted to cancel his extension of service. On 1st November 1902 he was posted to the Reserves as a Lance Corporal and was re-engaged in the Reserves on 16th September 1905 for a period of 4 years and was discharged on 7th December 1909 upon the termination of his appointment. Upon his return to civilian life, he became a Motor Tram Driver.

He re-enlisted at the outbreak of war serving as Private 2372 in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was billeted at 37, Thorne Road, Doncaster, which was a boarding house. Following a route march on 11th August 1914, he was taken ill and died on 12th August 1914. His death certificate records that he died from 'Phthisis Pulmonalis' (tuberculosis) and a haemoptysis (coughing of blood) from the bursting of a blood vessel in the chest; his death certificate was signed by Dr. T. Symes Mill MD who ran a tuberculosis clinic in Doncaster. He was buried in Hanging Heaton (St Paul) Churchyard. Edgar did not receive any World War 1 medal awards as he did not serve overseas or in a war zone,

Edgar's name was not submitted for inclusion on the Dewsbury War Memorial in Crow Nest Park nor in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour now kept in Dewsbury Central Library but as he was the first man from the Dewsbury Area to die in service in World War 1 it was decided to include him in the profiles.

In Memory of

Private

E Armitage

2372, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 12 August 1914

Remembered with Honour

Hanging Heaton (St. Paul) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

