



Humphrey Ramsden

1885 – 1916

Humphrey was born on 5th January 1885. His father was Ezra Ramsden, a Coal Miner born in Thornhill in 1861 and died in 1928. His mother was Rosanna (née Humphreys) born in Morley in 1862 and died in 1924. They were married at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 24th December 1882.

Their other children were Florence, born in 1883, Humphrey, born in 1885, David, born in 1887 and was killed in action 1st July 1916, Willie, born in 1890, Rowland, born in 1891 and served in World War 1, Percy, born in 1899, Lillian, born in 1904 and Marney, born in 1906 and died in 1915.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 84, Batty Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 11, East Parade, Eastborough, Dewsbury.

Humphrey was employed as a coal miner (hewer) on the 1901 census. In 1906 he emigrated to Canada on the RMS "Virginia". He settled in Victoria, British Columbia working as a miner.

He attested for the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 21st September 1915 serving as Private 154146 with the 1st Battalion Canadian Pioneers. His attestation papers describe him as a shade under 5' 5" with blue eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion. He also had tattoos on both arms, in the form of a sailor, ship and anchor. He arrived in England on 30th November 1915 and was sent to the Western Front on 9th March 1916. Whilst on active service his pay of \$15 per month was assigned to his mother in Dewsbury. Within a matter of weeks he was taken ill. On 2nd May he was treated by the Field Ambulance for what initially seemed like sciatica, by 3rd May 1916 he was transferred to Number 3 Divisional Rest Station with what was now diagnosed as influenza. His condition deteriorated and he died of jaundice on 10th May 1916 at Number 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, based at Remy Siding at Lijssenthoek near Poperinghe. He was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Humphrey was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and the Canadian Silver Memorial Cross (Mother's Cross).

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 24 being unidentified.

Humphrey 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 Canadian Virtual War Memorial on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Canada.

In Memory of

Private

H Ramsden

154146, 1st Bn., Canadian Pioneers who died on 10 May 1916

Remembered with Honour

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.