



William Robert Newton

1896 – 1917

William was born in Saham Hills, Norfolk in 1896. His father was Thomas Arthur Newton, an employee of the Yorkshire (W D) Electric Tramways Limited born in Saham Hills in 1873 and died in 1931. His mother was Rose Elizabeth (nee Adcock) born in Ovington, Norfolk in 1872 and died in 1951. They were married on 25th December 1891 at St. George's Church, Saham Toney, Norfolk.

They had two more children; Thomas Arthur, born in Saham Hills in 1892 and John William, born in Saham Hills in 1895 and served in World War 1.

Rose Elizabeth had a daughter, Edith Adcock, born in Shipdham, Norfolk in 1890.

The family moved to Dewsbury in 1896. On the 1901 Census they lived at 10, Cloth Hall Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 74, Kilburn Lane, Bradford Road, Dewsbury.

William was a single man who was educated at Earlsheaton Council School and attended the Dewsbury Parish Church Sunday school. He worked as a joiner's labourer at Messrs John Fenton and Sons, Batley Carr. He played rugby as a wing three-quarter for Dewsbury Celtic Football Club.

He attested at Dover on 2nd November 1915 and was sent to the Western Front on 13th June 1916 serving as Gunner 64092 in the 113th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. He died on 18th May 1917 in the 11th General Hospital at Camiers on the French coast from gunshot wounds to both knees accidentally received on 4th May 1917 whilst on duty. He was severely wounded and one leg had to be amputated. He was described by a Chaplain; the Rev. R.C. Jones in a letter to his mother as being "*in a very bad state*" He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne. The Military Cemetery is to the north of the town. During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. Ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern and the southern battlefields. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. 35 of these burials are unidentified.

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Gunner

William Robert Newton

64092, 113rd Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 18 May 1917 Age 21

Son of Thomas Arthur and Elizabeth Newton, of Dewsbury, Yorks. Native of Saham Hills, Norfolk.

Remembered with Honour

Etaples Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

