



Arnold Nelson Tompkins

1896 – 1917

Arnold was born in Heckmondwike in 1896. His father was Clarence Guildford Tompkins, a Cashier at a blanket mill born in Brighton, Sussex in 1856 and died in 1932. His mother was Emily Louisa (nee Thompson) born in Darlington, County Durham in 1859 and died in 1947. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 28th November 1876.

Their other children were; Clarence John born in 1877, Frederick Charles, born in 1879, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1880, Alfred, born in 1882, George Henry, born in 1883, Emily, born in 1885 and died 1886, William Edmund, born in 1887, Arthur Edward, born in 1888, Lionel Aubrey, born in 1890, Percy, born in 1892, Bertha, born in 1893 and died in 1893, Walter, born in 1894 and died in 1894 and Edith Marie, born in 1904; Edward, George and Aubrey all served in the Army and Percy was in the Royal Navy.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Milton Square, Heckmondwike, in 1891 at Kilpin Hill, Heckmondwike, in 1901 at 184, Halifax Road, Batley and in 1911 at 126, North Road, Ravensthorpe.

Arnold was a single man who worked with his brother Edward as a self-employed Barber.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 11th October 1916 serving as Private 202281 in the 6th/7th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers and was sent to the Western Front in May 1917. He was killed in action on Pilkem Ridge near Ypres on the First Day of the Battle of Passchendaele on 31st July 1917. His remains were found in 1920 and he was buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Arnold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Tyne Cot Cemetery is located 9 Kms north-east of Ieper town centre, on the Tynecotstraat, a road leading from the Zonnebeekseweg. It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. There are now 11,961 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery. 8,373 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to more than 80 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 20 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Arnold 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Private
A N Tompkins

202281, 6th/7th Bn., Royal Scots Fusiliers who died on 31 July 1917 Age 20

Son of Clarence G. and Emily Tompkins, of 126, North Rd., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Tyne Cot Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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