



Arthur Punyer MM

1892-1918

Arthur was born in Morley in 1892. His father was Albert Punyer, a hairdresser born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1949. His mother was Louisa (nee Child) born in Wakefield in 1866 and died in 1940. They were married on 9th June 1889 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were: Edward, born in 1889 and served in World War 1, Harold, born in 1894 and served in World War 1, Ernest, born in 1896, May, born in 1898, Annie, born in 1900 and died in 1902, Edith, born in 1902 and Elsie, born in 1905.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 1, The Bottoms, Morley, in 1901 at 36, Cliffe Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 12, Blenheim Place, Eightlands, Dewsbury.

Arthur was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and on the 1911 census he was working as a Piecer in the Spinning Department at a woollen mill but prior to enlistment he worked for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Thornhill Lees Station.

He enlisted at the outbreak of the war into the 2nd Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 200495, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He was recommended for the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry on 20th July 1915 but the award was not endorsed; he later came home on leave in the October of that same year. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field which was announced in the London Gazette on 12th December 1916. He was killed in action when hit by a shell in Belgian Flanders on 21st March 1918, the First Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were found in September 1920 and he was reburied in New Irish Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. In addition to the Military Medal Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

New Irish Farm Cemetery was first used from August to November 1917 and was named after a nearby farm, known to the troops as 'Irish Farm' (originally there was an Irish Farm Cemetery immediately South of the Farm. It was used again in April and May 1918 and at the Armistice it contained just 73 burials but was then greatly enlarged when more than 4,500 graves were brought in from the battlefields north-east of Ypres (now Ieper) and from smaller cemeteries. There are now 4,719 commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 3,271 of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials commemorate four casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 30 casualties buried in four of the cemeteries removed to New Irish Farm whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Arthur 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 War Memorial to former pupils in Eastborough School.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
A Punyer

M M

200495, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 21 March 1918 Age 25

Son of Albert and Louisa Punyer, of 12, Blenheim Place, Eightlands, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
New Irish Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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