



Albert Shaw

1892-1918

Albert was born in Dewsbury on 19th October 1892 and baptised on 7th December 1892 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. His father was Frederick Denton Shaw, a plasterer born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1897. His mother was Lizzey (nee Denton) born in Liverpool in 1856 and died in 1940. They were married in All Saints Church on 26th March 1882.

Their other children were; Thomas William, born in 1882, Sam, born in 1884, Amy, born in 1886, Mary Davenport, born in 1888, Edith, born in 1890 and Nelly, born in 1895.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 11, Back Wilton Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 50, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 2, Wellington Place, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury.

Albert was a single man who in 1911 worked as a Spinners Piecener in a woollen mill, his last employment was at Headfield Mills, Savile Town. He was connected with Springfield Congregational Chapel where he was much respected.

He was a pre-war territorial and was mobilised at the outbreak of War, serving as Private 235156 in the 5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 25th December 1915. He was invalided home in 1916 suffering from Neurasthenia (shell-shock) and Sepsis (blood poisoning). After returning to the front, he was wounded in July 1917 and spent six months back home in a number of hospitals, returning to the front once more at Easter 1918. He was killed in action near Reims, France on 20th July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne. His remains were discovered in 1920 and he was reburied in Bouilly Cross Roads Military Cemetery, Marne, France. Albert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bouilly is a commune 13 kilometres west of Reims. The cemetery was created in 1918 by the French Forces to contain British, French, Italian and German soldiers who had fallen in the vicinity. After the Armistice all other nationalities were removed and the cemetery was used for the concentration of British graves from the surrounding area. Most of the casualties who are buried here fell in the Battle of the Marne 18th July-6th August 1918. There are now over 200, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified.

Albert 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 Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Albert Shaw

235156, 5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 July 1918 Age 25

Son of Mrs. Shaw, of 2 Wellington Place, Eightlands Rd., Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Remembered with Honour

Bouilly Cross Roads Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.