William Arthur Oates
1879-1918

William was born in Savile Town, Dewsbury on 31st May 1879. His father was Joseph Oates, a foreman blanket fuller born in Mirfield in 1844 and died in 1915. His mother was Sarah Jane (nee Bramham), born in Brotherton near Selby in 1853 and died in 1929. They were married on 9th October 1875 in St. Matthias's Church, Burley, Leeds.

Their other children were; Ernest, born in 1877, Beatrice, born in 1881, Ethel, born in 1888, Dora Louisa, born in 1892 and Joseph Robert, born in 1893.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Scarborough Street, Savile Town, in 1891 at Thornhill Street, Savile Town, in 1901 at 5, Albion Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 2, Wharfe Street, Savile Town.

William worked as a Stonemason in 1901 and was married to Edith Whitehead (born in Aberford, Yorkshire in 1883 and died in Australia in 1942) at All Saints Church, Wighill near Wetherby on 26th December 1903. Their children were; Alice, born in Wighill in 1904, Ida Ethel, born in Walshford near Wetherby in 1905, Winnifred Lilian born in Kellerberrin, Western Australia in 1912 and Harold, born in Warthill in 1916. They emigrated to Australia in 1909 where they lived in Kellerberrin until early in 1914, when ill-health and a desire to see his elderly parents led him back to England with his wife and three children. He then became a Publican at the Agar Arms in Warthill, a village near York; Edith later moved to live at 27, St. Mary's Walk, Scarborough. In 1922 she returned to Australia with her children and in 1925 she was remarried to a widower Edgar Grainger Shaw (born in Manchester in 1882 and died in 1952). They lived in Fremantle, Western Australia.

He enlisted in Malton, Yorkshire in 1916 into the East Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 34970 and was sent to the Western Front around February 1917; he was transferred to the 7th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment in 1918 serving as Private 44168. He died in the 3rd Canadian Hospital, Le Treport, France on 17th August 1918 having being gassed two days earlier; he was buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France. William was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His obituary notices in both the Dewsbury Reporter and Dewsbury District News state his rank as Pioneer; whilst in the East Yorkshire Regiment he may have been one of a Pioneer Service Battalion and after transferring to the Lincolnshire Regiment reverted to Private.

Le Treport is a small seaport 25 kilometres north-east of Dieppe. The Cemetery is 1.5 kilometres south of the town. During the First World War, Le Treport was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3rd, 16th and 2nd Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7th Canadian, 47th and 16th USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon. There are now 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

William is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Arthur Oates* on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Mary's Church in Savile Town now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and as *Richard A. Oates* on the War Memorial inside St. Mary's Church, Warthill.

44168 PRIVATE
W. A. OATES
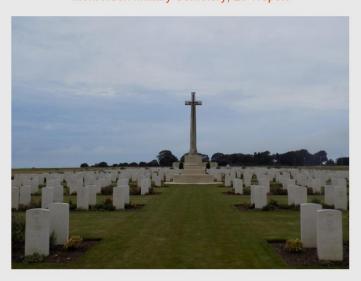LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT
17TH AUGUST 1918 AGE 39

EGYPT
LINCOLNSHIRE

PEACE PERFECT PEACE