



Willie Allott

1894-1918

Willie was born in Thornhill Lees on 24th July 1894 and baptised on 17th August 1894 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was James Allott, a blacksmith born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1935. His mother was Emma (nee Page) born in Thornhill Lees in 1872 and died in 1937. They were married at Holy Innocents Church on 20th January 1894.

Their other children were; Elsie, born in Ossett in 1896, Annie, born in Garforth in 1899, Laura, born in Garforth in 1901, Ernest, born in Garforth in 1905 and Walter, born in Garforth in 1908.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at New Heald, Garforth, Yorkshire, in 1911 at Myrtle Avenue, Ravensthorpe and later at 4, Church Street, Ravensthorpe.

In 1911 Willie was working as a piecer in a woollen mill but nothing more is known about his life.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 29402 and was later transferred into the 18th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps serving as Private A/203810. On 22nd August 1918 the Battalion moved up to the front line, just south of Ypres, there was little reported activity during that day and the next, except for a small amount of German shelling. On 24th August a heavy German barrage commenced at 3.45 am and an hour later the Germans attacked. The War Diary states; "*Casualties were two officers and seven other ranks killed, fourteen other ranks wounded and seven other ranks missing.*" He was one of the wounded and died in a Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding, near Poperinge, Belgium on 24th August 1918; he was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Willie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 24 being unidentified.

Willie is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as Willie *Allatt* on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Rifleman

Willie Allott

A/203810, 18th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 24 August 1918 Age 24

Son of James and Emma Allott, of 4, Church St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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