



Ben Wainwright

1886 – 1916

Ben was born in Batley on 1st June 1886. His father was John William Wainwright, a Stonemason born in Batley Carr in 1859 and died in 1908. His mother was Mary Ann (née Kaye) born in Batley in 1862 and died in 1933. They were married at All Saints Church, Batley on 14th November 1885.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at High Street, Batley.

Ben was an only child who was educated at Warwick Road Council School, Batley and in 1911 worked as a Grocer's Assistant; he was married to Annetta Lomax (born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1969) on 30th June 1907 at the Salem United Methodist Church, Northgate, Dewsbury. They lived at South View, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and had three children; Joseph Arthur, born in 1907, Annie, born in 1909 and Mary, born in 1911 and died in 1912. He later had his own business as a Newsagent and Stationer but then they moved to live in Manchester where Ben worked for the Co-operative Wholesale Society Buildings and Shopfitting Department, Vere Street, Salford. Their address was 17, Back Roman Road, Higher Broughton, Salford, Manchester. In 1939 Annetta was living at 76, Leeds Road, Dewsbury and was working as a Woollen Piece Mender.

He enlisted in Manchester serving as Private 5277 in the 2nd Battalion Manchester Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in May 1915. He was hit by a shell fragment during the Battle of the Somme and died of his wounds in a Field Ambulance Station at Bouzincourt on 3rd July 1916 and is buried in Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Ben was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bouzincourt is a village 3 kilometres north-west of Albert on the road to Doullens. It was used as a field ambulance station from early in 1916 to February 1917, when the Allied line went forward from the Ancre. It was in German hands for a few days in the spring of 1918. The Communal Cemetery was used for burials from March to July 1916 and again from April to June 1918; it contains 33 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The adjoining Cemetery Extension was begun in May 1916 and used until February 1917. In the early part of July 1916, it was used not only for burials from the field ambulances but also for the interment of many soldiers killed in action and brought back from the line. The extension was reopened from the end of March 1918 until the following September. In 1919, 20 graves were brought in from the immediate neighbourhood of Bouzincourt and 108 more were brought in from the various Somme battlefields in 1924-25. The extension now contains 589 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 108 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Ben 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 Memorial Plaque from the Salem United Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Private

Ben Wainwright

5277, 2nd Bn., Manchester Regiment who died on 03 July 1916 Age 30

Son of John William and Mary Ann Wainwright, of Batley Carr, Yorks.; husband of Annetta Wainwright, of Roman Rd., Higher Broughton, Manchester.

Remembered with Honour

Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Suzanne Make.