



Aloysius Alexander (Alec) Cady

1881 – 1916

Alec was born in Dewsbury on 22nd June 1881; his birth name is recorded as *Alawishes Alexander Kadey*. His father was John Cady, born in Castlereagh, County Roscommon, Ireland around 1838 and died in 1904. His mother was Catherine (née Hinnigan) born in County Leitrim, Ireland around 1840 and died in 1909. There are many spelling variants on the birth records of their children's surnames, Kady, Keadey, Kadey, Keady.

Their other children were; William John *Cady*, born in 1860 and died in 1861, William *Kady*, born in 1862 and died in 1863, James *Keadey*, born in 1864, Ann *Keadey*, born in 1866, Eliza *Kadey*, born in 1869 and died in 1869, William *Kadey*, born in 1870, Mary Jane *Keady*, born in 1872, Margaret *Kadey*, born in 1875, John Edward *Kadey*, born in 1877 and died in 1893, Catherine *Kady*, born in 1879 and Sarah Elizabeth *Kady*, born in 1884.

In 1891 the family lived at 34, Ingham Road, Dewsbury and in 1901 at 126, High Street, Westtown.

Alec was employed by John Tinker and Sons of Huddersfield as a steeplejack. He was married to Mary Ann Flanagan (born in 1883 and died in 1929) at Our Lady and St Paulinus Church in July 1905. Mary Ann had a daughter, Anne Flanagan, born in 1902. They lived at 3, Asylum Road, Westtown and had two sons; John, born in 1906 and died in 1906 and Thomas, born in 1907. Mary Ann was remarried in 1921 to Thomas Brennan.

He enlisted in August 1915 serving as Private 6684 with the 1st Battalion, Connaught Rangers and went with them to Mesopotamia in January 1916. In the summer of 1916, after being missing for around 15 days, his family finally received news that he was in a Military Hospital with wounds sustained in action and a fever. His wife received a subsequent War Office telegram at her home in Asylum Road stating "*Regret to inform you that your husband, Pte. A. Cady, died at Basra Hospital on the 15th of June*". This appears to have been an error, as the official records state he died from enteric fever on 10th July 1916 at Amara. He was buried in Amara War Cemetery, Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Alec was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Amara is a town on the left bank of the Tigris some 520 kilometres from the sea. The War Cemetery is a little east of the town between the left bank of the river and the Chahaila Canal. Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3 June 1915 and it immediately became a hospital centre. The accommodation for medical units on both banks of the Tigris was greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917, seven general hospitals and some smaller units were stationed there. Amara War Cemetery contains 4,621 burials of the First World War, more than 3,000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. 925 of the graves are unidentified. In 1933, all of the headstones were removed from this cemetery when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. Instead a screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon it. Because of the current political instability in Iraq, the cemetery is inaccessible. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a Roll of Honour commemorating all casualties buried and commemorated in Iraq at their Head Office in Maidenhead.

Alec 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 in Our Lady and St Paulinus Church and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of
Private
A Cady

6684, 1st Bn., Connaught Rangers who died on 10 July 1916

Remembered with Honour
Amara War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

