



Arthur Duxbury

1881-1918

Arthur was born at Topham Street, Wortley, Leeds on 6th January 1881. His father was John William Duxbury, a Coal Miner born in Birstall in 1861 and died in 1921. His mother was Emma (nee Lister) born in Armley, Leeds in 1857 and died in 1922. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Leeds on 3rd December 1879.

Their other children were: Jane, born in Wortley in 1880 and died in 1880, James, born in Holbeck, Leeds in 1885 and served in World War 1, John William, born in Ravensthorpe in 1888 and was killed in action on 13th April 1918, Mary Ann, born in Dewsbury in 1890, Fred, born in Dewsbury in 1893 and was killed in action on 1st July 1916, Chrissie, born in Ravensthorpe in 1896 and Kershaw, born in Ravensthorpe in 1898 and died in 1899.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at 3, Topham Street, Wortley, Leeds, in 1891 at 12, St. John's Street, Westtown, Dewsbury, in 1901 at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe and later at 40, Fearnley Street, Westtown.

Arthur worked as a coal miner and on 29th March 1906 he landed at Ellis Island, New York, to visit his uncle John Wilson in Chicago. He returned home via Liverpool, landing on 4th August 1907 and was married on 7th October 1907 at Dewsbury Register Office to Lillian Clarkson (born in Horbury in 1889 and died in 1945). They sailed from Liverpool on 18th July 1908 to live in Chicago where a daughter, Evelyn was born in 1909; later that same year they sailed from Montreal, Canada arriving in Liverpool on 29th May. On the 1911 Census their address was; City, Lee Green, Mirfield. Two daughters are recorded on the census, Evelyn, age 2 and Elsie, born in Ravensthorpe in 1910, their later children were; Arthur, born in 1913, John William, born in 1914 and died in 1916 and Lilian, born in 1917.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 10th August 1915 along with his brother John William; they were given consecutive Service Numbers. Arthur served as Private 1788 in the 12th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the brothers were sent to Egypt in November 1915 to protect the Suez Canal and in 1916 they took part in the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. On 10th April 1918 the Battalion took up positions in France between Estaires and Caestre, the enemy attacked on 13th April and John was killed in action that day whilst Arthur was captured during the battle and later died of pneumonia in Munster Prisoner of War Camp, Hannover, Germany on 28th April 1918. After the Armistice, his remains were reburied in Hamburg Cemetery. Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hamburg Ohlsdorf Cemetery (Friedhof Ohlsdorf) is the biggest non-military cemetery in the world. There are now 708 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Hamburg.

Arthur is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Private
Arthur Duxbury

1788, 12th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 28 April 1918 Age 37

Son of Emma Duxbury, of West Town, Dewsbury; husband of Mrs. Duxbury, of 40, Bradbury St.,
Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury. His brothers John William and Fred also died in service.

Remembered with Honour
Hamburg Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.