



Lowie Ellis Brook 1892-1918

Lowie was born in Batley on 8th May 1892, his birth record correctly spells his name as above, but on some reports and records his first name is spelt *Lewis* or *Louis*. His father was Ernest Brook, a Gear Drawer in a woollen factory born in Gomersal in 1861 and died in 1919. His mother was Annie (nee Ellis) born in Batley in 1857 and died in 1921. They were married on 11th December 1889 at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

Their other children who could be traced were; Cyril Arthur, born in 1896 and served in World War 1 and Elsie, born in 1897. In 1911 they state four children born to the marriage of which one had died.

In 1891 they lived at Lingfield Place, Batley, in 1901 Annie and her children were living at 23, Albert Road, Poulton-le-Sands, Morecambe whilst Ernest was living with his mother and sister at 17, Ellis Row, Trinity Street, Batley Carr. In 1911 all the family were living at 17, Ellis Row.

Lowie was educated at Warwick Road Council School and Wheelwright Grammar School and attended St. Marks Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury where he taught at the Sunday school. He worked as a newspaper reporter for the Dewsbury District News and later the Craven Herald in Skipton. He was married to Frances Mary Hepworth (born in 1881 and died in 1934) at Holy Trinity Church on 29th September 1915. They lived at the home of her parents at "Oakridge" West Park Street, Dewsbury and did not have any children. In January 1916 he began studies at the Wireless School in Leeds with a view to joining the Royal Flying Corps where he passed as head of his school in March.

He enlisted on 9th August 1916 in the Royal Flying Corps in the 6th (Wireless Squadron) serving as Second Airman (Private) 42822; he was trained at Farnborough where he passed out as head of his year, going on to serve on the Western Front attached to the 218th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery. He was killed during the Battle of Passchendaele on 3rd August 1917 near Ypres, when his dug-out was shelled. He was buried in Voormezele Enclosures No 1 and No 2, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Lowie was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His Captain spoke very highly of him in reports published in the Dewsbury Newspapers.

Voormezele Enclosures Nos.1 and 2 are located 4 Kms south-west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre, on the Voormezele Dorp, a street in the village of Voormezele. At one time, there were a total of four, but now reduced to three, were originally regimental groups of graves, begun very early in the First World War and gradually increased until the village and the cemeteries were captured by the Germans after very heavy fighting on 29th April 1918. No.1 and No.2 are now treated as a single cemetery. There are now 593 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 40 of the burials are unidentified and 14 graves destroyed by shell fire are represented by special memorials. Other special memorials record the names of two casualties buried in Enclosure No.4 whose graves were also destroyed.

Lowie is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Library and on the Batley War Memorial and on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Wheelwright Grammar School Memorial Plaque to former pupils and in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919.

In Memory of

Private

Lowie Ellis Brook

42822, 6th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps who died on 03 August 1917 Age 25

Son of Ernest and Annie Brook, of Batley, Yorks; husband of Frances Mary Brook, of "Oakridge," West Park Street, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Voormezele Enclosures No.1 and No.2



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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