



Albert Henry Armitage

1897-1918

Albert was born in Colne Bridge, Huddersfield on 12th March 1897 and baptised at St. Pauls Church, Easthorpe, Mirfield on 5th November that same year. His father was William Armitage, a ticket collector later a foreman porter for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway born in Mirfield in 1871 and died in 1940. His mother was Clara (nee Gawthorpe) born in Scissett near Huddersfield in 1875 and died in 1954. They were married at St Augustine's Church, Scissett on 19th January 1895.

They also had a daughter, Annie Beatrice, born in 1895.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Walker Street, Earlsheaton, in 1911 at 112, Rock Terrace, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor and later at 94, Gledhill Terrace, off Heckmondwike Road.

Albert was a single man and worked as a Butcher for Mr. Lister in Heckmondwike. He was connected with the Primitive and Methodist Church and Sunday school, Dewsbury Moor.

He served in the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as Private 202482 and was sent to the Western Front in December 1916. He was badly wounded during the later stages of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*) and died in a hospital in Boulogne, France on 13th May 1918 after suffering serious wounds in the back and shoulder and a broken arm, described in a letter to his parents on 11th May. He was buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Boulogne was one of the three base ports most extensively used by the Commonwealth armies on the Western Front throughout the First World War. It was closed and cleared on the 27th August 1914 when the Allies were forced to fall back ahead of the German advance, but was opened again in October and from that month to the end of the war; Boulogne and Wimereux formed one of the chief hospital areas. Until June 1918, the dead from the hospitals at Boulogne itself were buried in the Cimetiere de L'Est, one of the town cemeteries. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery contains 5,577 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. Unusually, the headstones are laid flat in this cemetery, due to the sandy soil.

Albert 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 St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

Albert Henry Armitage

202482, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 May 1918 Age 21

Son of William and Clara Armitage of 94, Gledhill Terrace, of Heckmondwike Rd., Dewsbury. Native of Colne Bridge, Huddersfield.

Remembered with Honour

Boulogne Eastern Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

