



Albert Gaunt

1890 – 1917

Albert was born in Dewsbury on 12th June 1890 and baptised on 3rd August 1890 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. His father was Richard Gaunt, a Blanket Raiser born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1925. His mother was Sarah Jane (nee Ingham) born in Whitley in 1862 and died in 1946. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church on 25th December 1889.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1893 and died in 1894, Harry, born in 1895 and died of wounds 23rd July 1918, Emma, born in 1898 and Horace, born in 1901.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 28, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor and in 1901 and 1911 at 40, Heckmondwike Road.

Albert was a single man who was educated at St. John's School and attended the Church. In 1911 he worked as a Spinner and later a Fettler at Messrs Wormald and Walker's Ratcliffe Mills, Thornhill Lees.

He served as Private 40887 in the 8th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers having previously served as Private 4554 in the Highland Light Infantry, enlisting on 22nd May 1916 and was sent to the Western Front on 12th May 1917. He received severe gunshot wounds and shell injuries during the Battle of Passchendaele and died on 8th August 1917 in the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding in Belgian Flanders and was buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His father later received a letter from the hospital chaplain stating that he had been wounded in the thigh, elbow and hand during the previous day and was very weak from loss of blood when admitted.

During the First World War, the village of Lijssenthoek was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The cemetery was first used by the French 15th Hopital D'Evacuation and in June 1915, it began to be used by casualty clearing stations of the Commonwealth forces. From April to August 1918, the casualty clearing stations fell back before the German advance and field ambulances (including a French ambulance) took their places. The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

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 and on Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of
Private
A Gaunt

40887, 8th Bn., Royal Dublin Fusiliers who died on 08 August 1917 Age 27

Son of Richard and Sarah Jane Gaunt, of 40, Heckmondwyke Rd., Dewsbury Moor, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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