



Arthur Wood

1885 – 1917

Arthur was born in Dewsbury on 31st July 1885 and baptised at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton on 6th September 1885. His father was Daniel Wood, an engine fitter, born in Dewsbury in 1849 in and died in 1911. His mother was Rachel (nee Jubb) born in Dewsbury in 1847 died in 1894. They were married on 31st December 1871 at St. Paul's Church.

Their other children were; Mary Ann, born in 1872 and died in 1873, John Whitfield, born in 1874 and Bertha, born in 1882 and died in 1892.

Daniel was remarried on 31st October 1896 at Christ Church, Staincliffe to Eliza Waddington (born in 1861); they had a son, George Waddington Wood, born in 1898.

On the 1891 Census Arthur lived at 7, Spinkwell Hill with his parents Daniel and Rachel, in 1901 he was at the same address but with his father and step-mother Eliza and half-brother George and in 1911 with Eliza, her sister Ann Waddington and George.

Arthur worked as a hoist attendant in Slade and Bullock's Excelsior Confectionary Works and was married to Ada Townend (born in 1887 and died in 1973) at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen, Dewsbury on 14th August, 1915. They lived at 28, Back Whitley Street, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and did not have any children.

He attested in December 1916 and served as Private 35101 in the 24th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, transferring from Service Number 47899 in the West Yorkshire Regiment upon landing in France. He was killed in action on 28th April, 1917 during the Battle of Arras, having been in France only about 8 weeks. His remains were not found until 1920 and he is now buried in Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux, Pas-de-Calais, France. Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Roeux is a village about 8 kilometres east of Arras. Brown's Copse Cemetery is about one kilometre north-west of Roeux on the eastern outskirts of the neighbouring village of Fampoux. Roeux was built over a system of caves which helped to make its capture in 1917 exceptionally difficult. It was attacked by the 9th (Scottish) Division without success on 12th April. The chemical works close to the railway station were taken by the 51st (Highland) Division on 22nd April and after incessant fighting, the village was cleared by the same Division on 14th May. The chemical works were lost again and retaken on 16th May. The Germans re-entered the village at the end of March 1918, and it was finally retaken by the 51st Division on the following 26th August. The cemetery is named from a small copse (the Bois Rossignol) on the east side. Plots I to IV are composed almost entirely of graves cleared from the battlefield in the summer of 1917. Plots V to VIII were made after the Armistice when 850 graves were brought in from a wide area north and east of Arras. The cemetery now contains 2,072 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 862 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to eight casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

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 Wood

35101, 24th (Tyneside Irish) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 28 April 1917 Age 32

Husband of Ada Wood, of 28, Back Whitley St., Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.