



Ernest Newsome 1883 - 1917

Ernest was born in Dewsbury in 1883. His father was Joseph Newsome, born in Dewsbury in 1861 and died in 1901. His mother was Agnes (nee Crowther) born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1897. They were married on 21st April 1883 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. Joseph and Agnes separated in 1885 just after the birth of their second son Albert, born in 1884.

On the 1891 Census, Ernest is living with his father and paternal grandparents at 3, Low Chapel Fold, Batley; his brother Albert was living with his mother and maternal grandparents in Healds Road, Dewsbury. In 1901 he is still with his paternal grandmother and her family in Low Chapel Fold. In 1911 he is living with his aunt, Maria Newsome and her brother Francis at 3, Thorncliffe Road, Batley.

Ernest attended St Joseph's Roman Catholic School, Batley Carr and as a boy he sang in the choir at the church, where attended as an adult. He was employed as a Fetter by Messrs Walker, Staincliffe Mill Company and was married in 1917 to Myra Wilkinson, (born in Dewsbury in 1880 and died in Exeter in 1953). They had no children. After his death she went to live at 3, Mulgrave Place, West Cliff, Whitby. In 1935 she was married to Ernest Edward Morrish (born in 1895 and died in 1979) at Exeter Register Office.

He served as Gunner 222480 in "Y" 74th Trench Mortar Battery Royal Field Artillery, attesting at Heckmondwike on 15th March 1917. He was drowned in the loss of the "*Osmanieh*" off Alexandria, Egypt on 31st December 1917. The ship was hired at the time of her loss by the Royal Navy as a troop transporter. The "*Osmanieh*" with troops and medical personnel was sunk by a mine from the German submarine UC-34 at the entrance to Alexandria Harbour. The death toll was 198. He is buried in Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Ernest was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hadra is a district on the eastern side of Alexandria. After the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, Alexandria remained an important hospital centre during later operations in Egypt and Palestine and the port was much used by hospital ships and troop transports bringing reinforcements and carrying the sick and wounded out of the theatres of war. The cemetery was begun in April 1916 when it was realised that the cemetery at Chatby would not be large enough. Most of the burials were made from the Alexandria hospitals, but a number of graves of December 1917 were due to the loss of the troop transports "*Aragon*" and "*Osmanieh*" which were sunk by torpedo and mine as they entered the port. The cemetery continued in use until December 1919 but later, some graves were brought in from small burial grounds in the western desert. There are now 1,700 First World War burials in the cemetery

Ernest is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour in kept Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the War Memorial in St. Joseph's RC Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of

Gunner

Ernest Newsome

222480, "Y" 74th Trench Mortar Bty., Royal Field Artillery who died on 31 December 1917 Age 31

Husband of Myra Newsome, of 3, Mulgrave Place, West Cliff, Whitby.

Remembered with Honour

Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.