



Albert Cole

1893-1918

Albert was born at 10, Marriott Street, Dewsbury on 18th November 1893 and baptised on 18th December 1893 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His father was Tom Cole, a Cloth Finisher born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1925. His mother was Ellen Kershaw (nee Lister) born in Dewsbury in 1871 and died in 1938. They were married at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley on 8th July 1893.

Their other children were; Arthur, born in 1897 and died in 1899, Ellen (Nellie) born in 1903 and Hilda, born in 1908.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 10, Quarry Street, Staincliffe, Batley and in 1911 at 25, Hirst Yard, Beckett Road, Dewsbury.

Albert was a single man who was educated at Batley Carr Church School and worked as a hand warper in the woollen mill of Messrs Joshua Ellis and Company Limited, Batley Carr.

He enlisted on 1st May 1916 serving as Private DM2/171238 in the 708th Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps. After 10 days leave he was posted to Salonika in the August of that same year and did not see his family again; his last letter home was to his sweetheart Miss Eva Halmshaw of Peel Street, Dewsbury on 7th October 1918. He was attached to the French troops and had previously worked alongside the Serbian army. He died of pneumonia and influenza (Spanish Flu) on 18th October 1918 and was buried in Skopje British Cemetery, Skopje, which is now the capital of the Republic of North Macedonia. Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Skopje was captured by the Bulgarians in October 1915 and re-entered by French cavalry at the end of September 1918. Skopje British Cemetery was created after the Armistice when burials were gathered together from Kumanovo British Cemetery, Prilep French Military Cemetery, Veles British and French Military Cemeteries and other burial grounds. The great majority of those who died were men of the RASC (MT), who died of influenza after the Armistice with Bulgaria on 29th September. The war cemetery is located within the city limits approximately 1 kilometre north of the railway station and lies just off Boulevard Alexander the Great. It lies adjacent to the church of the Archangel Michael. There are now 124 Commonwealth servicemen and women buried or commemorated in this cemetery. Six of the burials are unidentified and special memorials commemorate six servicemen buried in Uskub German Cemetery whose graves could not be found.

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 Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr and on the Memorial Plaque to Employees of Joshua Ellis and Company Limited who gave their lives for their country in the Great War which is still preserved at their mill.

In Memory of

Private

Albert Cole

DM2/171238, 708th M.T. Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 18 October 1918

Remembered with Honour

Skopje British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph taken by Josh Court and Neil Rees.
Supplied by courtesy of the War Graves Photographic Project.