



## Albert Brooke 1891 – 1916

Albert was born in Dewsbury on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1891. His birth name was registered as *Brook* on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1892. His mother was Elizabeth *Brook* (née Mason) born in Gringley on the Hill, Nottinghamshire in 1848 and died in 1900.

Elizabeth was married on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1878 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor to Samuel Brook (born in 1855). On the 1881 Census she is living at Birch Yard, Dewsbury; a one month old son Jim is recorded but no birth or death record has been found for a child of this name. On the 1891 Census she is living at 10, Albion Street, Dewsbury with three children; Arthur M *Brook* (born Arthur Mason in 1872, no father named), Jane Whitaker *Brook* (born in 1882, her father is named as Samuel Brook), Walter *Brook* (born in 1886, no father named) and a lodger, Joe Whitaker age 32. In 1901 the family are living at 114, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury comprising of Jane, Walter and Albert; Joe Whitaker is still there, his age is given as 45 which matches his birth record in Huddersfield correctly.

In 1911 Albert was working as a coal miner (hewer) and lodging at Cullingworth Yard, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. He was married to Mary Louisa Armitage (born in 1891 and died in 1980) on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915 at St. Philips Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His entry in the register records his father as Joseph Brooke (deceased). By the time of his marriage he had left his employment at Crawshaw and Warburton's Chidswell pit and was in training at Strensall Camp at York. Mary Louisa was remarried in 1920 to Joseph Ewart Mellor (born in 1888 and died in 1980), they had two children.

He enlisted on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1915 serving as Private 4795 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1916. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1916 he suffered a gunshot wound to the back during the Battle of the Somme; he died of his wounds on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1916 in the No. 1 South African Hospital at Abbeville, France. He was buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mary Louisa was officially notified that her husband was lying dangerously ill in Hospital at Abbeville. In another communication, Chaplain A.H. Cullen informed her that both Albert's legs were paralysed as a result of his spinal injury, but he was remarkably cheery amid his suffering. Mary Louisa learned of her husband's death from the Territorial Records Office, York on 10<sup>th</sup> August, two days after he had died. The Chaplain wrote again, this time stating "*You must try, although it will be hard, to thank God that He has taken him so soon, for he would otherwise have borne months of suffering with the same end, after all*".

The town of Abbeville is about 80 kilometres south of Boulogne. For much of the First World War, Abbeville was headquarters of the Commonwealth lines of communication and No.3 BRCS, No.5 and No.2 Stationary Hospitals were stationed there variously from October 1914 to January 1920. The communal cemetery was used for burials from November 1914 to September 1916, the earliest being made among the French military graves. The extension was begun in September 1916. Abbeville Communal Cemetery contains 774 Commonwealth burials of First World War. The Extension contains 1,754 First World War burials.

Albert is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Albert Brook* on the Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Spiritualist Church and as *A. Brook* on the Memorial Plaque to former employees of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton displayed in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton.

In Memory of

Private

**Albert Brooke**

4795, 4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 August 1916 Age 24

Remembered with Honour  
Abbeville Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

