



Arthur Lee

1887 - 1916

Arthur was born in Dewsbury on 18th March 1887 and baptised at St Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 25th December 1887. His father was George Henry Lee, a Lamplighter born in Batley in 1855 and died in 1935. His mother was Ada Ann (née Hemingway) born in Mirfield in 1857 and died in 1895. They were married on 1st March 1879 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Edith, born in 1882, Alfred, born in 1883, Ralph, born in 1888 and George, born in 1893.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 97, Tweedale Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 30, Webster Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 18, Manor Street, Dewsbury.

George was remarried on 1st March 1897 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury to Mary Mettrick (born in Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, Scotland in 1857 and died in 1916). He was remarried again on 9th April 1917 at All Saints Church to Annie Parker (born in 1866 and died in 1944)

Arthur was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School and attended St James' Mission Church. He worked as a window cleaner, employed by the Batley and Dewsbury Window Cleaning Company. He was married to Maud Sowerby (born in 1888 and died in 1973) on 5th June 1909 at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury. They lived at Eastwood's Yard, Granville Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and had three children; George Arthur, born in 1909, Mabel, born in 1911 and Annie, born in 1914.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in August 1915 serving as Private 21141 in the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers. In November 1915 he was sent to the Dardanelles campaign (Gallipoli) where he spent some weeks, and following the evacuation there he went onto Serbia participating in the retreat to Salonika. He was next sent to the island of Lemnos where he was hospitalised with dysentery at the garrison town of Mudros. He then transferred to Egypt before moving on to the Western Front. He was transferred to the Highland Light Infantry only days before he was killed in action in France on 20th June 1916. He was buried in Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Captain William T. Mitchell wrote to his wife informing her of the circumstances: *"I deeply regret having to inform you of the death of your husband, Pte. A. Lee. He was killed by a high-explosive shell going into the trenches. Your husband had just joined us a few days before, and I was very glad he was in my company. The N.C.O.'s and men in his platoon also much regret his death. He, however, died in a good cause, which will be one consolation to you."*

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 Lee

21141, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 20 June 1916

Remembered with Honour

Authuille Military Cemetery, Authuille



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.