



Tom Ainley

1895 – 1917

Tom was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was William Ainley, a brusher in a textile mill born in Ossett in 1858 and died in 1929. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Mitchell) born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1908. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 30th November 1882.

Their other children were; Gertrude, born in 1885, Florence, born in 1887, Rose, born in 1891 and Hannah Eliza, born in 1892.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 2, Tentercroft Road, Crackenedge, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 3, Caulms Wood Road, Dewsbury and later at 19, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury.

Tom was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and was attached to Dewsbury Baptist Church on Leeds Road. He worked as a bootmaker's assistant.

He enlisted in May 1916 serving as Private 35422 in the 7th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to the Western Front around August 1916. He died of wounds sustained during the Battle of Arras on 30th April 1917 in a Casualty Clearing Station at Bray-sur-Somme and was buried in Bray Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Tom was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Bray-sur-Somme is a village about 9 kilometres south-east of Albert. Bray Military Cemetery is north of the village, a little west of the road to Maricourt. The cemetery was begun in April 1916 by fighting units and field ambulances. In September 1916, the front line having been pushed further east, it was used by the XIV Corps Main Dressing Station and in 1917, the 5th, 38th and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations came forward and used it. In March 1918, the village and the cemetery fell into German hands, but were retaken by the 40th Australian Battalion on 24th August, and during the next few days the cemetery was used again. After the Armistice graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately north and south of the village and in 1924, further isolated graves were brought in. Bray Military Cemetery now contains 874 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 127 of which are unidentified.

Tom 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 Plaque at Eastborough School to former pupils and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Baptist Church.

In Memory of

Private

Tom Ainley

35422, 7th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 30 April 1917 Age 23

Son of William Ainley, of 19, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Bray Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

