



George Arthur Ledgard

1898 – 1917

George was born in Ravensthorpe on February 16th 1898. His father was John Ledgard, a coal miner (hewer) and Pit Deputy born in Dewsbury in 1863 and died in 1929. His mother was Hannah Mary (nee Brooke) born in Northorpe, Ravensthorpe in 1861 and died in 1931. They were married on 23rd December 1883 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield.

Their other children were; Ernest, born in 1884, Susan, born in 1885, Arthur, born in 1886 and died in 1887, Edith, born in 1888 and died in 1889, Clifford, born in 1890, Herbert, born in 1891, Joseph William, born in 1893 and died in 1894 and Harry, born in 1904 and died in 1904.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1901 at Crawshaw Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at 5, Hebble Street, Ravensthorpe and later at Poplar Terrace, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe.

George was a single man who attended Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church and Sunday school. He worked as a wet-cleaner at Messrs Jas Smith and Son, Dyers and Dry Cleaners in Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted on 18th October 1916 into the 2nd/8th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) serving as Rifleman 23538. He was killed in action during the Battle of Cambrai, his official date of death is recorded as 23rd November 1917, but his Battalion was not engaged in action on that date and it is likely that he was killed the previous day during the enemy's major counter-offensive. He had been on the Western Front around nine months and on 17th November he had written to his parents telling them that he was going up the lines and had become an Officer's Servant (Batman). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His lifelong friend Luke Clegg Leadbeater was killed at Zonnebeke near Ypres on 22nd November 1917. They had both attended the same Church, Sunday school and both had worked at Jas Smiths.

The Cambrai Memorial commemorates 7,120 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known. The Memorial stands on a terrace in Louverval Military Cemetery, situated south of the small village of Louverval which is 13 Kms north-east of Bapaume and 16 Kms south-west of Cambrai.

George is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church and on the War Memorial in Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Rifleman

George Arthur Ledgard

235238, 2nd/8th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 23 November 1917

Remembered with Honour

Cambrai Memorial, Louverval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

LEDGARD G.A.