



Albert Hopwood Wailes

1881 – 1916

Albert was born in Batley in 1881. His father was Robert Hopwood Wailes, a Mill Worker born in Dewsbury in 1848 and died in 1925. His mother was Mary (née Scholey) born in Badsworth near Pontefract in 1851 and died in 1925. They were married on 3rd June 1872 in Harford, Maryland, USA.

Their other children were; Scholey, born in Walden, Orange County, New York State in 1873, Ada Ann, born in 1878, Frederick, born in 1883, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1885, John Richard, born in 1887, Charles Arthur, born in 1891 and Joseph, born in 1895. John, Charles and Joseph all served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in World War 1.

In 1891 the family lived at 21, Spinkwell Road Dewsbury, in 1901 and 1911 at 66, Lidgate Lane, Dewsbury.

Albert was married to Florence Ethel Baxter (born in Halifax in 1881 and died in 1963) at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 15th August 1903. They had two sons. Arthur, born in 1904 and died in 1905 and Harry, born in 1905. In 1911 the family lived at 41, Beckett Road, Batley Carr, Albert worked as a woollen spinner for Messrs Marshall, Kaye and Marshall in Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted as Private 2288 in the 1st/₄th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was later renumbered 200399. He was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. His brother Serjeant John Wailes wrote home to his family saying that Albert had received leg wounds during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. Another brother, Lance-Corporal Charles Wailes was injured at around the same time. Charles was repatriated to a hospital in Croydon and on 12th August 1916, was reported in the press as writing home to say he was comfortable but Albert was by then posted as missing. His date of death is recorded as 8th July 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Albert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Albert 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 War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

In Memory of

Private

Albert Hopwood Wailes

200399, 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

