



Albert Smith

1891 – 1916

Albert was born in Dewsbury on 24th December 1891 and Baptised on 24th January 1892 at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green. His father was William Thomas Smith, an Engineer in a carpet mill born in 1851 and died in 1925. His mother was Jane Eliza (née Swallow) born in 1857 and died in 1947. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church on 27th November 1887.

William was previously married in 1874 to Elizabeth Doyle (born in 1841 and died in 1887). Their children were; Henry, born in 1875 and died in 1876, Mary Ann born in 1878, twins Elizabeth, born in 1880 and died in 1880, William, born in 1880 and died in 1880 and William Thomas, born in 1883.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 31, Swallow Road, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 36, Princess Street, Dewsbury.

Albert worked as a coal miner, employed by Messrs J. Critchley and Sons Batley Collieries. He was also associated with the Dewsbury Northern Union Club, playing at full back. He was married to Katie Burnett (born in 1891 and died in 1978) at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 28th September 1912. They lived at 41, Dale Street, Batley Carr, Batley and had two children; Jane, born in 1913 and Herbert, born in 1915.

He enlisted in May 1915 into the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers with the Service Number 20049, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. After training in Edinburgh he was sent to the Dardanelles in September 1915 and served on Gallipoli. From there he went to Egypt and then finally France. It was whilst in France that he received wounds during the Battle of the Somme which were so serious it proved impossible to evacuate him back to England. He died in a military hospital at Etretat on the evening of 12th July 1916. He was buried in Etretat Churchyard, Seine-Maritime, France. Albert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Nursing Sister M. Kaberre wrote to his wife telling her *“He was a splendid soldier and died shouting, “Come on, boys; lets charge them!” He died as he finished these words and it made one realise what it must have meant to him to have been able to take part in the advance.....there was practically no hope of saving him and we can only be glad that he did not suffer for a longer time”*.

Etretat is a small seaside town about 26 kilometres north of Le Havre. In December 1914, No.1 General Hospital was established in Etretat and it remained there until December 1918. Etretat Churchyard contains 264 Commonwealth burials of the First World War

Albert 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 Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
Albert Smith

20049, 1st Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 12 July 1916 Age 24

Son of William and Jane Smith, of Princess St., Dewsbury, Yorkshire; husband of Katie Smith, of 41, Dale St., Batley Carr, Batley.

Remembered with Honour
Etretat Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

