



## **Allen Buckley Oldroyd**

### **1884 - 1917**

Allen was born in Dewsbury on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1884. His father was Thomas Evans Oldroyd, a blanket finisher born in Dewsbury in 1846 and died in 1913. His mother was Sarah (nee Clegg) born in Dewsbury 1843 and died in 1907. They were married in 1874.

Their other children were; Margaret Ann, born in 1875, Joseph, born in 1877, Hannah May, born in 1882 and Fred, born in 1887 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 42, Knowles Hill Road, Dewsbury Moor, in 1901 at 110, Knowles Hill Road and in 1911 at Wroe Street, Dewsbury Moor.

Allen was educated at Dewsbury Moor Council School and attended St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor where he was married on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1913 to Florence Whitehead (born in 1886 and died in 1929). He worked as a Barman and General Waiter, but prior to his enlistment he was employed by the Standard Patent Glazing Company Dewsbury. They lived at 4, West Vale, Dewsbury and did not have any children. After his death Florence moved back to her parents home at Pit Yard, Scout Hill and later to 4, Stoney Bank Street, Scout Hill, which might explain his being named on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial.

He enlisted in June 1916 serving as Private 35349 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and died of bronchitis and pneumonia in hospital at Boulogne on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1917. He is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Allen was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He died of complications as a result of contracting Trench Foot. After hours and days of men standing in soaking wet socks and boots, Trench Foot would begin to set in. The men's feet would swell and go numb and then the skin would start to turn red or blue and hospitalization was required in extreme cases. Untreated feet rapidly became gangrenous and would need to be amputated. Over 74,000 men died from Trench Foot in World War 1.

Boulogne was one of the three base ports most extensively used by the Commonwealth armies on the Western Front throughout the First World War. It was closed and cleared on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1914 when the Allies were forced to fall back ahead of the German advance, but was opened again in October and from that month to the end of the war; Boulogne and Wimereux formed one of the chief hospital areas. Until June 1918, the dead from the hospitals at Boulogne itself were buried in the Cimetiere de L'Est, one of the town cemeteries. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery contains 5,577 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. Unusually, the headstones are laid flat in this cemetery, due to the sandy soil.

Allen 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 in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

## Allen Oldroyd

35349, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 16 February 1917 Age 32

Husband of Florence Oldroyd, of Pit Yard, Scouts Hill, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Boulogne Eastern Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

