



## **Rupert Clegg 1888 - 1916**

Rupert was born in Batley on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1888. His father was Arthur James Clegg, a Farmer and later a Rag Merchant born in Batley 1857 and died in 1949. His mother was Emma (nee Armitage) born in 1862 and died in 1947. They were married at St. John the Baptist Church, Kirkheaton on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1882.

Their other children were; Ethel Mabel, born in Heckmondwike in 1884, Gertrude Isobel, born in Kirkheaton in 1886, Marion, born in Batley in 1888, Adelaide, born in Drax near Selby in 1891, Arnold, born in Dewsbury in 1893 and died of wounds 29<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and Rosemund, born in Batley in 1897 and died in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Brockhole Farm, Drax, in 1901 at 131, Occupation Lane, Staincliffe, in 1911 at 83, Healds Road, Dewsbury and later at 184, Halifax Road, Heckmondwike.

Rupert was a single man who in 1911 was working as a rag sorter; he later emigrated to Canada where he worked as a clerk. He returned to England on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1914 landing at Liverpool on the passenger ship "*Missanabie*" which had departed from St. John, New Brunswick.

He served as Private 82044 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry, the Saskatchewan Regiment into which he attested in March 1916 at Shorncliffe, Kent. He was initially assigned to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force and was then drafted into the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1916. He was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1916 during the attempt to recapture Mouquet Farm, which was part of the Battle of Pozières. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Rupert was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Canadian Silver Cross (Mothers Medal).

The attack on Mouquet Farm began on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1916 with attacks by the Reserve Army and it was captured by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of the Canadian Corps on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The farm was lost to a German counter-attack, before being recaptured on 26<sup>th</sup> September, during an attack by the 11<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division as part of the Battle of Thiepval Ridge from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, in which the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire (Pioneers) cleared out the last German defenders.

The Vimy Memorial overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge. Located north of Arras in France, the Vimy Memorial is Canada's largest overseas National Memorial. It commemorates more than 11,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed during the First World War in France and who have no known grave.

Rupert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph 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 Memorial in the Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike and on the Canadian Roll of Honour on Parliament Hill, Ottawa.

In Memory of

Private

## Rupert Clegg

82044, 5th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 27 September 1916 Age 28

Son of Arthur James and Ermna Clegg, of 184, Halifax Rd., Heckmondwike, Yorks, England.

Remembered with Honour

[Vimy Memorial](#)



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

