



Matthew Eggett 1875-1918

Matthew was born in Bradford in 1875. His father was Jesse Eggett, a Labourer born in Norwich in 1847 and died in 1900. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Burns) born in County Roscommon, Ireland around 1850 and died in 1924. They were married at St. Thomas's Church, Bradford on 8th November 1873.

Their other children were; George, born in Dewsbury in 1872, John, born in Halifax in 1874, Thomas, born in Rochdale in 1878, Elizabeth, born in Rochdale in 1880, Charles, born in Halifax in 1882, Jesse, born in Dewsbury in 1884, Lawrence, born in Dewsbury in 1886 and died in 1893, Joseph, born in Dewsbury in 1888 and was killed in action 27th September 1918 and James, born in Dewsbury in 1890. George, Charles, Jesse and James also served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 17, Carlisle Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 at 6, Hanover Street, Dewsbury. In 1911 Elizabeth was an inmate of the Dewsbury Workhouse.

In 1911 Matthew and his brother Joseph both lived in a boarding house in Barnsley where they worked in a coal mine. He later worked as a Labourer at Mr. W C Wakefield's Chemical Works in Savile Town. He was married to Mary Hawksworth (born in 1883 and died in 1921) at Dewsbury Register Office on 18th October 1913; they lived at 90, Middle Road, Westtown and did not have any children. Mary was remarried in 1919 to James Tyrrell (born in 1883 and died in 1923).

He enlisted on 18th January 1915 into the 17th (Service) Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment but was discharged two days later; the reason is unclear although he was noted to have been of good character. He enlisted again in the Northumberland Fusiliers serving as Private 17686 in the 8th, 19th and finally the 12th/13th Battalions. He was sent to Gallipoli on 2nd November 1915 and later to Egypt and then to the Western Front. He was killed in action in France on 25th October 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Matthew was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Vis-en-Artois and Haucourt are villages on the straight main road from Arras to Cambrai. The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces being commemorated on other memorials to the missing.

Matthew is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

Matthew Eggett

17686, 12th/13th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 25 October 1918

Remembered with Honour

Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



