



Arnold Swithenbank

1898-1918

Arnold was born in Savile Town, Dewsbury on 12th August 1898 and baptised on 7th January 1901 in Chickenley Wesleyan Chapel. His father was George Swithenbank, a Woollen Mill Worker born in Earlsheaton in 1875 and died in 1910. His mother was Mary (nee Barraclough) born in Earlsheaton in 1875 and died in Dewsbury in 1951. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 9th May 1896.

Their other children were; Elizabeth Gladys, born in 1896 and died in 1899 and Jane, born in 1907.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Chickenley Lane, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 6, Warren Street, Savile Town, the home of Arnold's paternal grandparents Stott and Jane Swithenbank. On the 1921 Census Mary was a housekeeper for a Mr. John Wood, a Tailor of Durkar near Wakefield, her daughter Jane was also in residence there. In 1922 Mary and Jane departed on the S.S. "Carmania" from Liverpool on 1st June sailing to New York, they returned on 14th October on the S.S. "Laconia". Their original intention was to live in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mary was remarried on 12th June 1935 at St. Stephen's Church, Hyde, Cheshire to Frank Smith (born in Gomersal in 1872 and died in Hyde Hospital in 1960) they lived at 156, Bennett Street, Hyde. Frank had previously lived in Ravensthorpe with his first wife Edith (nee Lister) and son Lancelot.

Arnold was a single man who worked as a Warper in a Woollen Mill.

He enlisted on 30th August 1916, just 12 days after his 18th birthday, giving his home address as 90, Chickenley Lane. He was posted to 'B' Reserve and then to the 10th Training Reserve Battalion at Rugeley, Staffordshire on 21st February 1917 until 15th June 1917, when he transferred to the 4th Training Reserve Battalion based "at home." He was sent to the Western Front on 13th October 1917 and was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment two days later serving as Private 41020. He was killed in action on 2nd September 1918 during the second Battle of Bapaume, France during the raid on Beugny village, some 10 kilometres north of Bapaume by the 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment as part of 5th Division. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Arnold was awarded 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.

Arnold 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 from the now demolished St. Mary's Church, Savile Town, now displayed in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in the now demolished St. Peter's Church Earlsheaton, and on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced) and on the Ossett War Memorial.

He is also commemorated on an impressive family grave in Earlsheaton Cemetery.

In Memory of

Private

Arnold Swithenbank

41020, 1st Bn., Norfolk Regiment who died on 02 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

SWITHENBANK A.