

Pte. Arthur REDFEARN (1885 – 1917)
(Alexandra, Princess of Wales, Yorkshire Regiment)



Arthur Redfearn was born in Batley in 1885 to Mr and Mrs Sam Redfearn of 23 Beck Lane, Carlinghow.

At the time of the 1891 census Arthur was 6 and part of an already large family. Sam, his father, was 37 and a woollen cloth finisher. Susan, his mother, was 36. He had three brothers and two sisters, Clara (16) a woollen cloth finisher, George W (15) a woollen twister, Walter (10) at school, Ernest (5) at school and Janey (3). Arthur was also attending school.

Ten years later, at the 1901 census, Arthur was working but the description is not clear. His father Sam was now 48 and described as working as a cloth raiser. Susan was now 46. Clara and George had moved on. Walter was 20 (woollen mill), Ernest 15 (woollen mill) Janey was 12 and attending school and two new children had appeared Leonard who was 8 and Albert aged 6.

Arthur married Ellen Jane (Nellie) Bird on the 26th March 1910 at St Thomas, Batley. Arthur was 25, working as a painter, and living at 1 Beck Lane. Ellen was 24, working as a domestic servant and living at 'Elmdene'. When married they lived at 41 Towngate Road, Healey Fields, Batley.

At the time of the 1911 census, they had established their home at 5 Sandy Field Terrace, Bradford Road, Batley. Arthur worked as a painter at the Batley Co-operative Society. In the Sept. Qtr of 1911 they had a son, Frank A., and in the Sept. Qtr of 1913 a daughter, Freda A. was born.



Arthur enlisted in Batley in July of 1916 as a Derby recruit. He was a private (41435) in the 9th Battalion of the Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment). He previously served in the Durham Light Infantry with the service number: 38180.

He disembarked in Europe in June of 1917 and his regiment were soon in action around Ypres. The 3rd battle of YPRES started on the 31st July 1917 after 10 days bombardment. On 19th July – Battalion had moved into the front line in relief of the 19th West Riding Regiment. On 23rd July – the Battalion left the front line for 'Micmac' Camp – the move was hampered by hostile artillery fire causing a few casualties (6 killed, 1 wounded, 2 missing). Arthur died of serious wounds sustained to his chest and arm on the 23 July 1917, aged 32.

He was buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium (Grave Ref: XVI C 22A). His gravestone has the inscription, "The Lord Knoweth Them That are His". The cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, including 84 for soldiers who served with the Yorkshire regiment.



Arthur Redfearn is 'Remembered with Honour' on Batley War Memorial and on memorials at; Batley Co-operative Society, All Saints Church, Batley, St John the Evangelist, Carlinghow, Christ Church, Staincliffe and Cross Bank Wesleyan Church (now located at the Central Methodist Church, Batley).

Interestingly, the Commonwealth War Grave Commission records his wife Ellen as living at Healey Cottage, Kingston, Kingsbridge, Devon. Ellen was born in Clapham, London. From London to Batley to Devon - another mystery of history. What is more interesting is that Arthur is also 'Remembered' on the War Memorial in Kingston.

An Abridged version of the full Soldier's Story researched and written by Stephen Walker for Project BUGLE.

Kenneth Fedzin for the Project BUGLE July Library Exhibition