

Alec Mottershead

Macclesfield Road, Holmes Chapel

Died of Wounds 9th July 1916

Approximate location of the Mottershead house on Macclesfield Road, one of 2 semi detached brick houses.



His Story

Alec, son of Thomas and Mary Ann Mottershead, was born in 1891 at Cross Town, Knutsford but by 1901 he was living at Twemlow Lane, Cranage aged 10.

He is known to have attended Cranage School and on leaving became a farm labourer.

His War Record

On 25th September 1909 he enlisted as a regular soldier at Chester aged 18 and his military record says he was height 5 ft 9¼ inches and a farm labourer. He Joined the Cheshire Regiment number 9216 and served in the 1st, 2nd; 3rd and 9th Battalions.

Details from his military record show that he was in England from May 1909 to December 1910 when he travelled to India until December 1914. He was again in England until January 1915 after which he joined the forces in France.

At some stage he was promoted to sergeant. He died of wounds whilst serving the 9th Battalion, Cheshire Regt on July 9th 1916 and is buried in Grave II.B.71A Etaples Military Cemetery

During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern and the southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick.