



Albert Gratwick

Private SD 675 Royal Sussex Regiment, 11th Battalion, 39th Division

Died 2nd June 1916 aged 31

Albert, baptised in Shipley Church on 6th September 1885 at the age of three months, was one of eight children, all born in Shipley, to Harry Gratwick and Fanny Rapley. In Albert's entry in the Shipley Births Register his father Harry was listed as a labourer from Brooks Green, although later censuses record him more specifically as a well digger.

The Gratwick children were Harry, (1880), Ellen (1881), Ida (1883), **Albert** (1886), Jack (1888), Herbert (1890), Emily (1892) and Frederick (1895).

Albert attended Shipley School and left aged 14 to take up work. At the time of the 1901 Census he was an agricultural labourer and in 1911 he was single and living with his parents at Copyhold Cottage, Brooks Green. At the time of Albert's death his parents were living at Chivers Cottage, Shipley.

Albert's regimental number is consecutive with that of his brother Frederick and other Shipley men, indicating that they enlisted together in Horsham, responding to Colonel Lowther's call to local men to join his fledgling South Downs Battalions which subsequently became known as "Lowther's Lambs"*. Albert's name appears on the list of Shipley men who volunteered for service published in the Shipley Parish Magazine in November 1914.

In March 1916 Albert's battalion embarked for France where he gave his life just three months later at Richebourg, in the prelude to the coming Battle of the Somme. The 11th Battalion was in the front line trenches and Albert was killed in a shell attack. The Reverend Baker paid tribute to him and other Shipley men who had given their lives at a special memorial service held in November 1916, a year of eight losses for Shipley. This was the first loss that Harry and Fanny suffered; sadly their youngest son Frederick would be lost the following year in 1917.

Albert is buried in Cambrin Churchyard, France, and commemorated in Shipley Church. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

*Note: see the accompanying document *Southdowns Battalions*

In Memory Of
Private

ALBERT GRATWICKE

Service Number: SD/675

11th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 02 June 1916 Age 31
Son of Harry and Fanny Gratwicke, of Chivers Cottage, Shipley, Horsham, Sussex.

NOBLY ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL

Remembered with Honour
CAMBRIN CHURCHYARD EXTENSION
M. 2.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION