



## **Gilbert Lewis**

**1897 - 1917**

Gilbert was born in Dewsbury in 1897. His Father was James Lewis, a colliery carpenter who was born 1871 in Pembridge, Herefordshire. His Mother was Sarah (nee Cromack) born in Dewsbury in 1872. They were married on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1892 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were: Willie, born 1892, died 1894, Wilfred, born 1894, Ernest, born 1899, Thomas, born 1903, died 1903, Beatrice, born 1903, died 1903, (twins) Hilda, born 1905 and Albert, born 1906.

In 1901 the family lived at 103, Lees Hall Road, in 1911 at Thornhill Edge.

Gilbert was single and worked as a scale picker, above ground (colliery worker).

He served as Private 47428 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was killed in action on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917 during the first day of the Battle of Cambrai. His remains were not discovered until December 1920 and he is now buried in Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Gilbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hermies Hill British Cemetery was begun in November 1917, and carried on by fighting units until March 1918, and further graves were added in the following September. These original burials comprise nearly the whole of Plot I; the remaining three Plots were added after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from a wide area round Hermies and from certain smaller cemeteries. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this cemetery, of these, nearly 300 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 28 soldiers from the United Kingdom and 3 from Australia, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 6 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in two German Cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Gilbert is 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 in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

**G Lewis**

47428, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 November 1917

Remembered with Honour  
Hermies Hill British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.