



George Herbert English

1889-1918

George was born in Ravensthorpe on 8th May 1889. His father was Edwin English, a card cleaner who became a Willeyer born in Sherburne, Dorset in 1867 and died in 1928. His mother was Anne/Annie (nee Coulson) born in Pool-in-Wharfedale, Yorkshire in 1868 and died in 1943. They were married at St. Saviours Church, Ravensthorpe on August 28th 1888.

Their other children were; Percy, born in 1892, Bertha, born in 1894, Edith, born in 1895, Harold, born in 1898, Clara, born in 1901, John, born in 1903, Ada, born in 1906 and Phyllis, born in 1910.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Bradbury Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at School Street, Ravensthorpe.

George worked as a willeyer for Robert Swire and Sons, Ravensthorpe. He was married at St. Saviour's Church on 14th October 1911 to Sarah Jane Booth (born in 1891 and died in 1965) they had four children; Ada Annie, born in 1912, Bertha, born in 1913, Nellie, Born in 1916 and Edith, born in 1917. They lived at 31, Havelock Street, Ravensthorpe. Sarah remarried in 1921 to a widower Friend Fisher (born in 1884 and died in 1951) they had three children; Mona, born in 1921, George Herbert, born in 1924 and Friend, born in 1928.

He enlisted in Heckmondwike into the Army Service Corps and was sent to the Western Front in August 1917 and in May 1918 he was transferred into the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers which was part of the 3rd Division. He was killed in action in France on 15th June 1918 when the division was fighting in the region of Bethune. On the 13th June they were issued with orders to advance on the night of the 14th /15th along the east bank of La Basse Canal. The attack was carried out at 11.45 pm and according to the Brigade War Diary all objectives were achieved. The following day the German artillery retaliated with a barrage on the British Lines and he was one of fourteen men from the Northumberland Fusiliers who were killed. He is buried in Sandpits British Cemetery, Fouquereuil, Pas-de-Calais, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Fouquereuil is a small village between Bethune and Bruay la Buissiere. The cemetery was begun by XIII Corps at the outset of the German advance in April 1918, and continued to be used by them until September 1918. There are now 394 First World War burials in the cemetery.

George 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. Saviours Church, Ravensthorpe. He is recorded as George H. English on the latter two.

In Memory of

Private

George Herbert English

39654, 1st Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 15 June 1918 Age 29

Son of Edwin and Annie English; husband of Sarah Jane English, of 31, Havelock St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Sandpits British Cemetery, Fouquereuil



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage