



## Harry Cooke

**1881 – 1916**

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1881. His father was Samuel Cooke, a Retail Hatter, born in Denton, Lancashire in 1844 and died in 1893. His mother was Clarissa (nee Cooke) also born in Denton in 1848 and died in 1925. They were married at St. Lawrence's Church, Denton on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1871.

Their other children were; Jessica, born in Denton in 1872, Walter, born in Congleton, Cheshire in 1875 and died in 1878, Frank, born in Congleton in 1877, Mary, born in Dewsbury in 1883 and Samuel, born in Dewsbury in 1886.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family were living at 55, Westgate, Dewsbury where Clarissa was a Hatter and Hosier. In 1911 Clarissa, Mary and Samuel lived at 22, Mallinson Street, Dewsbury; Frank was living at and running the business at 55, Westgate.

Harry was a single man and in 1901 he worked as a Litho Artist. He has not been traced on the 1911 Census. On the Dewsbury Roll of Honour produced in 1923/24, his family address is given as 110, Savile Road, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

He enlisted into the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) serving as Private 301245 and was sent to the Western Front on 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1915. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Harry is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of  
Rifleman

# Harry Cooke

301245, 1st/5th Bn., London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour  
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

