



Harry Newsome

1872 - 1916

Harry (true birth name Henry) was born in Dewsbury in 1872. His father was Thomas Newsome, a Wool Turner and later a Publican born in Dewsbury in 1848. His mother was Sarah Jane (nee Room) born in Dewsbury in 1853 and died in 1914. They were married on 10th February 1872 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Annie, born in Dewsbury in 1875, Walter, born in Dewsbury in 1878 and died in 1878, Herbert, born in Dewsbury in 1879, Elizabeth, born in Dewsbury in 1882, Thomas, born in Guben, Germany in 1884, Eva, born in Germany in 1892 and died in 1903 and Florence, born in Dewsbury in 1895. One more child died in infancy, possibly born and died in Germany.

On the 1881 the family were living at Smith Road, Dewsbury in 1891 they were living in Germany, in 1901 and 1911 at the Paragon Inn, 99, Westgate, Dewsbury.

Harry initially worked as a potman and assistant innkeeper to his father in 1901, but he was a licensed victualler when he was married in 1908 to a widow, Mary Emma Richardson (nee Kemp), born in 1870 and died in 1929; they had two sons, Arthur Edward, born in 1910 and Thomas, born in 1911. On the 1911 census Harry was the Landlord of the Eightlands Hotel, 4, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted into the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 28th August 1914 serving as Private 1030 and a later number 200030 and was posted to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were discovered in 1931 and he was buried in Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Somme, France. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The village of Serre is 11 kilometres north-north-east of Albert. In June 1916, the road out of Mailly-Maillet to Serre and Puisieux entered No Man's Land about 1,300 metres south-west of Serre. On 1st July 1916, the 31st and 4th Divisions attacked north and south of this road and although parties of the 31st Division reached Serre the attack failed. The 3rd and 31st Divisions attacked once more on the 13th November, but again without success. Early in 1917, the Germans fell back to the Hindenburg Line and on 25th February, Serre was occupied by the 22nd Manchesters. The village changed hands once more in March 1918 and remained under German occupation, until they withdrew in August. In the spring of 1917, the battlefields of the Somme and Ancre were cleared by V Corps and a number of new cemeteries were made, three of which are now named from the Serre Road. Serre Road Cemetery No.2 was begun in May 1917 and by the end of the war it contained approximately 475 graves, but it was greatly enlarged after the Armistice by the addition of further graves from the surrounding area, including graves from smaller cemeteries. There are now 7,127 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, mostly dating from 1916. Of these, 4,944 are unidentified. The cemetery, which was not completed until 1934, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

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

In Memory of
Private
Harry Newsome

200030, (1030). 1st/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916

Remembered with Honour
Serre Road Cemetery No.2



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

