



Harold Coope

1891 - 1916

Harold was born in Pudsey on 14th March 1891 and baptised at the Parish Church of St. Lawrence and St. Paul, Pudsey on the 24th May. His father was James Coope, a gardener born in Pudsey in 1865 and died in 1904. His mother was Emma (née Webster) born in Pudsey in 1867 and died in 1919. They were married at St. Wilfrid's Church, Calverley, Pudsey in 1888.

Their other children were; Hettie, born in Middleton, Leeds in 1889, Nellie, born in Dudley Hill, Bradford in 1893, Henry, born in Dewsbury in 1894 and died in 1894, Harry, born in Dewsbury in 1895 and died in 1895, John, born in Dewsbury in 1896 and died in 1897, Sarah Jane, born in Dewsbury in 1898, Willie, born in Dewsbury in 1900, Gertrude Amy, born in Dewsbury in 1902, James, born in Dewsbury in 1904. Emma gave birth to another son, Jack, on 20th September 1909 at Moorcroft, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury.

On the 1901 Census the family are living in Temple Lodge, Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury where James was a gardener. In 1911 they lived at 19, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury and later at 13, Ivy Cottage, Back Webster Hill, Dewsbury.

Harold was single man who was educated at St. John's Church School, Dewsbury Moor; like his father, he was a gardener and nurseryman in Crow Nest Park.

He served as Private 37678 in the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and attested in the summer of 1916 in Pontefract, and after the briefest possible spell of training he was sent to the Western Front. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on 16th September 1916. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He was initially reported as missing and his death was not confirmed by the War Office until August 1917.

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 20th 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.

Harold 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

Private

Harold Coope

37678, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 16 September 1916 Age 24

Son of James and Emma Coope, of 13, Ivy Cottage, Webster Hill, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

