



Herbert Gamble

1896 - 1917

Herbert was born in Ravensthorpe in 1896. His father was Fred Gamble, a rag grinder, born in Hanging Heaton in 1867 and died in 1932. His mother was Susannah (nee Ellis, formerly Burton) born in 1866 and died in 1908. They were married at St. Saviour's Parish Church Ravensthorpe on 4th November 1893.

Their other children were; Oliver, born in 1894 and died in 1905, Willie, born in 1898, Walter, born in 1900 and died in 1900 and Albert, born in 1903.

Susannah was previously married in 1886 to John Burton (born in 1861 and died in 1892). They had three children; Arthur Burton, born in 1888 and died in 1899, Tom Burton, born in 1889 and Fred Burton, born in 1891.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Church Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 26, Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe.

Herbert was a single man who worked as a labourer in the woollen mill of Messrs G.H. Hirst & Co. Queen Street. He attended the Dewsbury Primitive Methodist Chapel.

He enlisted on 6th March 1916 serving as Private 241953 in the 2nd/5th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was sent to France with the 62nd Division on 9th January 1917. He was killed in action near Beaucourt in the Somme Region on 25th February 1917. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Division was ordered at 2am on 25th February to move up to the front line and at 8am were deployed on either side of the Puisieux Road, the road leading out of Beaucourt. The morning was misty and the ground in a bad state. A letter from Lieutenant John Aitkin to Herbert's father, published in the Dewsbury Reporter, states that Herbert was killed just as he was going up to the trenches, "*He suffered no pain but was killed instantly along with another poor lad*".

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 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Herbert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

Herbert Gamble

241953, 2nd/5th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 25 February 1917 Age 20

Son of Fred Gamble, of 27, Sackville, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

GAMBLE H