



Harold Smith

1893 – 1917

Harold was born in Dewsbury on 30th November 1893 and was baptised on 20th January 1894 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill. His father was Ernest Edgar Smith, a Coke Oven Labourer born at Beckley, Oxfordshire in 1872 and died in 1946. His mother was Jane Ann (nee Gregg) born in Wombwell near Barnsley in 1872 and died in 1936. They were married on 28th January 1893 at St. Michael and All Angels Church.

Their other children were: Harriet Ellen, born in 1895. Gilbert, born in 1897, Edgar, born in 1909 and Alice, born in 1911.

In 1901 the family lived at Walker Street, Thornhill, in 1911 at 19, Wells Road, Combs, Thornhill and later at 34, Wells Road; after his wife's death, Ernest moved to 24, Bretton Street, Savile Town.

Harold was a single man who in 1911 was a rope ender in a colliery but prior to enlistment he worked as a wool blender for Messrs Wormald and Walker Limited.

He enlisted in Pontefract on 4th February 1916 serving as Private 39001 in the 7th (Service) Battalion (Lewis Gun Section) of the York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front on 26th February 1917. His Service Record shows that he was confined to camp for 2 days on 7th April 1917 for having a dirty rifle on parade. He was killed in action on 23rd April 1917 at the launch of the second battle of the Scarpe during the Battle of Arras and was buried in Feuchy British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harold was awarded The British War Medal and The Victory Medal.

Feuchy village was captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on 9th April 1917, lost at the end of March 1918, and retaken at the end of the following August. Feuchy British Cemetery was made by the 12th Division in April 1917, and used until March 1918. A few graves were added after the recapture of the village. The present Plot I was regrouped in 1926 to allow the construction of a railway station. The cemetery now contains 209 First World War burials. Two of the graves, destroyed by shell fire, are now represented by special memorials.

Harold 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 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

H Smith

39001, 7th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 23 April 1917

Remembered with Honour

Feuchy British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.