



George Hirst

1878 - 1917

George was born in Thurstonland, Huddersfield on 4th March 1878 and baptised on 13th April at St. Thomas's Church, Thurstonland. His father was Frank Hirst, a farmer, born in Mirfield in 1822 and died in 1904. His mother was Grace (nee Tunnacliffe) born in Kirkburton, Huddersfield in 1851 and died in 1904. They were married on 1st May 1872 at Christ Church, New Mill, Huddersfield.

Their other children were; Mary, born in 1872, Joseph Hirst, born in 1874, Benjamin, born in 1875 and Ada Maud, born in 1881.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Lumb House, Thurstonland and in at 1901 at Marsh Hall, Thurstonland.

George was described as a keen cricket player and had played for a number of clubs in the Huddersfield League; he had been a professional for Meltham and Skelmanthorpe and also featured for Almondbury and others. He worked as a French Polisher and Cabinet Maker for Messrs Taylor and Hobson of Huddersfield and was married on 26th April 1907 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury to Edith Ann Martha Askham (born in 1881 and died in 1965). They had two sons who were both born in Huddersfield; Reginald Frank William, born in 1908 and served in the Second World War as Sergeant 776076 in 106 Squadron RAF Voluntary Reserve and was killed on active service on 21st February 1942. He is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial; also George Eric, born in 1910. In 1911 they were living at 2, The Avenue, Moldgreen, Huddersfield. Edith later moved to 139, Milton Road, Hoyland near Barnsley and finally to 48, West Park Street, Dewsbury and died there on 14th March 1965.

He served as Private 47514 in the 26th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and died of wounds in the 30th Casualty Clearing Station at Aubigny-en-Artois on 9th April 1917, the first day of the Battle of Arras. He is buried in Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France. George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Aubigny-en-Artois is a village approximately 15 Kilometres north-west of Arras. Before March 1916, Aubigny was in the area of the French Tenth Army, and 327 French soldiers were buried in the Extension. From March 1916 to the Armistice, Aubigny was held by Commonwealth troops and burials were made in the Extension until September 1918. The 42nd Casualty Clearing Station buried in it during the whole period, the 30th in 1916 and 1917, the 24th and 1st Canadian in 1917 (during the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Corps) and the 57th in 1918. The Extension now contains 2,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

There seems to be no evidence that George ever lived in Dewsbury, but he was married there and his wife was born in Savile Town and moved back to Dewsbury with both their sons who later married and lived in Dewsbury.

George 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 Thurstonland War Memorial and on the Moldgreen War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

George Hirst

47514, 26th (Tyneside Irish) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 09 April 1917 Age 38

Son of Frank Hirst, of Thurstonland, Huddersfield; husband of E. A. M. Hirst, of 2, The Avenue, Moldgreen, Huddersfield.

Remembered with Honour

Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

