



## Harry Fell 1887 – 1917

Harry was born in 1887. His father was John Fell, a Wool Merchant born in Elland in 1865 and died in 1925. His mother was Agnes (nee Auty) born in Dewsbury in 1865 and died in 1944. They were married in 1884.

Their other children who could be traced were; Richard Henry, born in 1885 and died in 1885, twins; Carl, born in 1896 and Eric born in 1896 and died in 1897, Arnold, born in 1889 and Jack, born in 1899.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Cooperative Buildings, Cowper Street, Savile Town, in 1901 at Plevna Terrace, Savile Town. In 1911 John has not been found; Arnold is shown as head of the family and is manager of a Tar Distillery in Litherland, Liverpool; his mother and brother Jack are residents along with himself at the Tar Works House, 1a, Church Road. At the time of Harry's death, his family were living at "Winmarleigh", Alexandra Mount, Litherland, Liverpool.

Harry was educated at Wheelwright Grammar School and in 1905 became an assistant to the analytical chemist, Mr. Dixon Shaw, followed by a post in Scotland with the British Dyewood and Chemical Company. They sent him to be the manager of their works in Jamaica, where he met his fiancée Miss Gertrude Farquharson of Cornwall, Jamaica. Harry returned to Britain after five years to take up the post of chemist and manager with the Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical Company at their Selby works.

He enlisted in the East Riding Yeomanary, soon after the outbreak of war in 1914 and later served as Pioneer 206759 'Z' Special Company Royal Engineers, which was their chemical section. He was killed in action as a result of a shell explosion on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917, the First Day of the Battle of Passchendaele. His remains were found in 1919 and he was buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen Belgium. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In the report of his death in the *Dewsbury Reporter* on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1917, a friend wrote about Harry: "*He was such a very cool and brave soldier, and whenever a good man was wanted for important duty poor old Harry was always one of the first for it.*"

New Irish Farm Cemetery is located to the north-east of the town of Ieper. It was first used from August to November 1917 and was named after a nearby farm, known to the troops as 'Irish Farm' (originally there was an Irish Farm Cemetery immediately South of the Farm. New Irish Farm Cemetery is about 300 metres north of the Farm at a crossing once known as Hammond's Corner). It was used again in April and May 1918 and at the Armistice it contained just 73 burials but was then greatly enlarged when more than 4,500 graves were brought in from the battlefields north-east of Ypres (now Ieper) and from following smaller cemeteries. There are now 4,715 commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 3,267 of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials commemorate four casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 30 casualties buried in four of the cemeteries removed to New Irish Farm whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Harry 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 to former pupils of Wheelwright Grammar School.

In Memory of  
Pioneer  
**Harry Fell**

206759, "Z" Special Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 31 July 1917 Age 29

Son of John and Agnes Fell, of 13, Alexandra Mount, Litherland, Liverpool. Native of Thornhill, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
**New Irish Farm Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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