



## **William Henry Edson**

### **1883 – 1917**

William was born in Dewsbury on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1883 and baptised at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His father was also William Henry Edson known as Harry, a mechanical engineer born in Barnsley in 1859 and died in 1931. His wife was Martha (nee Beckett) born in Dewsbury in 1858 and died in 1927. They were married on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1880 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

They had a daughter, Sarah Martha (Maggie) born in 1881.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 76, Leeds Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 at "Bottom of Leeds Cutting", in 1911 at Marriot Street, Dewsbury and later at 115, Middle Road, Earlsheaton.

William was a single man who was educated at Eastborough Council School and worked for 11 years as a brass finisher for Messrs Darnbrough and Company at their Brassworks in Flatts, Dewsbury before moving to work in Hull.

He attested in Hull in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment with the Service Number 11/25 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and was posted to Egypt on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1915, arriving on the Western Front in March 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of Arras on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917 at the beginning of the third Battle of the Scarpe. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial. William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death was not confirmed until February 1918 when an article was published in the Dewsbury Reporter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of that month. On 4<sup>th</sup> May 1918 his family inserted a poignant "In Memoriam" notice in both local newspapers which referred to him as "*Willie*" which must have been their familiar name for him.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

William 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 War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the Memorial Plaque in Eastborough School as *Wm. Henry Edson*.

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal  
**William H. Edson**

11/25, 12th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 03 May 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Arras Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

