



Harry Webster

1887 – 1917

Harry was born in Mirfield in 1887. His father was Matthias Webster, a Bargee or Waterman born in Mirfield in 1847 and died in 1919. His mother was Hannah (nee Pyrah) born in Methley near Leeds in 1851 and died in 1921. They were married in St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 19th December 1871.

Their other children were; Rosa, born in Normanton in 1872, George, born in Hull in 1874 and died in 1908, Sarah Jane, born in Mirfield in 1875, Edgar, born in Mirfield in 1876, Peter, born in Mirfield in 1878, Ernest, born in Goole in 1879, John, born in Mirfield in 1880, Clara, born in Mirfield in 1882 and died in 1883, Ada, born in Mirfield in 1883, Clara Elizabeth, born in Mirfield in 1884, James, born in Mirfield in 1886 and died in 1887, Leonard, born in Mirfield in 1889 and died in 1905.

Hannah had a son; Henry Pyrah, born in Normanton in 1868 and died in 1873.

On the 1881 Census the family are registered aboard the Keel Boat "Industry" berthed in Hull, in 1891 at 9, Fenton Street, Mirfield, in 1901 at Knowl Road, Mirfield. In 1911 Harry is living with his mother and sister Ada at Garden Street, Ravensthorpe; Matthias is living at Upper Hopton with the family of his daughter Clara (now Mrs. Arthur Dransfield).

Harry was a single man and was employed at the factory of Messrs J&J Wilkinson Oil Extractors. At the time of his death, his mother's address was given as 20, Charles Street, Ravensthorpe.

He served as Private 240142 in the 2nd/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) which he joined as a Territorial in 1911 and spent much time attending annual camps and training sessions. He did not go out to the Western Front until the 1st December 1916. He was killed in action on 3rd May 1917 during the Battle of Arras near Bullecourt 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. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 7th 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.

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

In Memory of

Private

Harry Webster

240142, 2nd/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 May 1917 Age 29

Son of Mrs. Hannah Webster.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

