



## **Gilbert Lewis**

### **1897 - 1917**

Gilbert was born in Dewsbury in 1897. His father was George James (sometimes James George) Lewis, a colliery carpenter born in Pembridge, Herefordshire in 1871 and died in 1962. His mother was Sarah (nee Cromack) born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1939. They were married on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1892 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were: Willie, born in 1892 and died in 1894, Wilfred, born in 1894, Ernest, born in 1899, twins Thomas, born in 1903 and died in 1903, Beatrice, born in 1903 and died in 1903, Hilda, born in 1905, Albert, born in 1905 and Stanley, born in 1914.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 103, Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 341, Edge End, Thornhill.

Gilbert was a single man and worked as a scale picker above ground in a colliery

He served as Private 47428 in the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was killed in action on 20th November 1917 during the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai. He was buried in Havrincourt Wood British Cemetery, about 1 kilometre South-West of Havrincourt village. In December 1920 he was one of 70 men who were reburied in Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Gilbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hermies is a town in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the road from Bapaume to Cambrai. Hermies was seized on the morning of 9th April 1917, by a surprise attack of the 2nd and 3rd Australian Infantry Battalions. It was held against the advancing Germans on the 22nd March 1918 by the 17th Division, but evacuated on the following day; it was retaken in September 1918. Hermies Hill British Cemetery was begun in November 1917 and carried on by fighting units until March 1918. Further graves were added in the following September and after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from a wide area round Hermies and from certain smaller cemeteries. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 300 are unidentified.

Gilbert 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 in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of  
Private  
**G Lewis**

47428, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 November 1917

Remembered with Honour  
**Hermies Hill British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.