



Harry Richardson

1896 - 1917

Harry was born in Staincliffe, Batley on 12th May 1896. His father was Arthur Richardson, a Cloth Tenter born in 1869 and died in 1941. His mother was Ada (nee Smith) born in 1869 and died in 1953. They were married on 26th November 1892 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were: Sarah Hannah, born in 1893 and died in 1905, Sam, born in 1894 and served in World War 1, Walter, born in 1898 and died of sickness as a prisoner of war on 1st October 1918, Norman, born in 1901 and died in 1903 and Ada, born in 1903.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Bunkers Lane, Staincliffe, in 1911 at 1, Royd Street, Hanging Heaton and later at 31, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton.

Harry was a single man who was educated at Staincliffe Church School and later at Hanging Heaton Church of England School and attended St. Paul's Church. He worked as a warper in a woollen mill. He was also a Rechabite. (The Independent Order of Rechabites is a friendly society founded in England in 1835 as part of the wider British temperance movement to promote total abstinence from alcoholic beverages).

He enlisted in Bradford in 1915 into the 2nd/6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) as Private 4904 with the later number 241819. He 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. Harry 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. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 300 are unidentified.

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 Hanging Heaton War Memorial in St. Paul's Churchyard and in the book: 'The Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' compiled by The Rev W.E. Cleworth, M.A., Cantab. Associate of King's College University of London. Vicar of Hanging Heaton from January 1894.

In Memory of

Private

H Richardson

241819, 2nd/6th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 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.