



Harry Summerscales

1885 - 1917

Harry was born in Dewsbury in 1885. His father was William Summerscales, a coal miner born in Dewsbury in 1841 and died in 1927. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Pickersgill) born in Gawthorpe, Ossett in 1844 and died in 1938. They were married on 2nd May 1863 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Walter, born in 1864, Anne, born in 1867, Benjamin, born in 1869, Celia, born in 1873, Ada, born in 1875, Edith, born in 1878, Joseph William, born in 1881 and Arthur, born in 1883.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at Owl Lane, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury.

Harry was educated at Shaw Cross School and later at Mill Lane. He was also a member of the Chidswell United Methodist Chapel. He worked with horses as a stable boy at Stubley's Hall, Shaw Cross and later for Dr. Beattie (Dewsbury) as a groom. He was working as a groom at East Markham, Nottinghamshire when he was married in 1911 at East Retford, Nottinghamshire to Rose Makings (born in West Markham in 1888 and died in 1978); they lived at 17, Savile Street, Retford and had a daughter, Catherine Elizabeth, born in 1912. Rose was remarried in 1927 to Henry Palmer (born in 1875 and died in 1949). They had a son, Keith Henry, born in 1928.

He enlisted in Hull in 1915 serving as Private M2/081319 in the 886th Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps, attached to 174th Siege Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery and was sent to the Western Front on 1st October 1915. He died in a Casualty Clearing Station on 11th October 1917 from wounds sustained during the Battle of Passchendaele and was buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Dozinghem Military Cemetery is located to the north-west of Poperinge near Krombeke. Westvleteren was outside the front held by Commonwealth forces in Belgium during the First World War, but in July 1917, in readiness for the forthcoming offensive, groups of casualty clearing stations were placed at three positions called by the troops Mendinghem, Dozinghem and Bandaghem. In 1917 the 4th, 47th and 61st Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Dozinghem and the military cemetery was used by them until early in 1918. There are now 3,174 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Harry is remembered on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial. He is also Featured in the book '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

Harry Summerscales

M2/081319, 886th Mechanical Transport Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 11 October 1917 Age 32

Son of William and Elizabeth Summerscales, of Shaw Cross, Dewsbury, Yorks; husband of Rose Summerscales, of 17, Savile St., Retford, Notts.

Remembered with Honour

Dozinghem Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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