



Wilfred Arthur Hirst

1893 - 1917

Wilfred was born in Mirfield on 19th August 1893 and baptised at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 8th October 1893. His father was George Hirst, a dairyman and milk seller born in Mirfield in 1865 and died in 1925. His mother was Clara (nee Wilson) born in Holmfirth in 1866 and died in 1950. They were married in Huddersfield in 1889.

Their other children were; Edith Mary, born in 1888, Fred, born in 1890 and Gertrude, born in 1895.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Church Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at Poplar Terrace, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe and later at 26, Dearnley Street, North Road, Ravensthorpe.

Wilfred was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's School and attended the Church where he was a member of the Bible Class and played for the Parish football team. He worked as a cabinet maker for Kershaw Brothers in Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in the 426th Field Company of the Royal Engineers in March 1917 serving as Sapper 262794. Whilst undergoing his training at Caernarfon in Wales he was given some inoculations which made him feel unwell. He went home on leave in mid-October to attend his sister's wedding, but on returning to his unit his condition deteriorated and he was admitted to Bangor Hospital on 25th October 1917, suffering from a septic arm and bleeding from the mouth. He rapidly grew even weaker, becoming unconscious and died later the following day 26th October 1917. Medical reports later concluded that he died from acute leukaemia. He was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard in Mirfield. Wilfred did not qualify for any medal awards as he did not serve overseas in a war zone.

Wilfred 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of
Sapper
Wilfred Arthur Hirst

262794, 426th Field Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 26 October 1917 Age 24

Son of George and Clara Hirst, of 26, Deamley St., North Rd., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Mirfield (St. Mary) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

