



Harold Day

1881 - 1917

Harold was born in Earlsheaton on 2nd July 1881. His father was Joseph Day, a school attendance officer born in Middlestown near Wakefield in 1840 and died in 1921. His mother was Clara (nee Cooper) born in Hall Green, Crigglestone, Wakefield in 1845 and died in 1918. They were married on 10th October 1868 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were: Annie, born in 1869, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1871, Hannah, born in 1873, William Henry, born in 1875 and died in 1876, Ellen, born in 1877 and died in 1881, Ezra James, born in 1883, Charles William, born in 1885, Henry, born in 1887 and died in 1887.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census records, the family lived at Wakefield Road, Earlsheaton.

Harold was married to Violet Annie Bayliss Topham (born in New Mill, Huddersfield in 1881 and died in 1974) on 8th August 1908 at St Mary's Parish Church, Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath. They had one son, Frank born in 1911. His occupation was as Assistant Master at Wakefield Cathedral Day School, having previously held appointments at South Ossett and Earlsheaton Church of England Schools. They lived at 14, Ellen Terrace, Burkhill Street, Sandal Magna, Wakefield. Violet later lived at 3, Welbeck Street, Wakefield.

He attested under the Lord Derby Scheme and was called up early June 1916 serving as Private 202477 in the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the previous Service Number of 5473. He went into training at Clipstone Camp in Nottinghamshire and was sent to the Western Front in May 1917 where he was deployed as a Signaller. He was killed in France on 10th August 1917 by an exploding German shell on the front line; being one of three of a party of half-a-dozen men who suffered from the effects of the explosion. He was buried in Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal,

Croisilles is a village about 13 kilometres south-east of Arras. Croisilles British Cemetery now contains 1,171 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 647 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 14 casualties buried among them.

Harold 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 Earlsheaton Park and on the War Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath which was demolished in 2013.

In Memory of

Private

Harold Day

202477, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 10 August 1917 Age 36

Son of Joseph and Clara Day, of Chickenley Heath, Dewsbury, Yorks; husband of Violet Day, of 3, Welbeck St., Wakefield.

Remembered with Honour

Croisilles British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton