



Leonard Halstead

1895-1918

Leonard was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was Richard Halstead, a coal miner who became a colliery deputy born in Thornhill in 1856 and died in 1924. His mother was Mary Hannah (nee Booker) born in Leeds in 1856 and died in 1936. They were married on 22nd July 1877 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were: Joseph, born in 1878, Benjamin, born in 1880, Arthur, born in 1883, Horace, born in 1885 and died in 1905, Numa, born in 1886, Albert, born in 1889 and served in World War 1 and Milton, born in 1892 and served in World War 1.

On the 1881 Census the family lived at Low Street, Thornhill Edge, in 1891 and 1901 at Edge Lane, Thornhill and in 1911 at Chapel Place, Thornhill.

Leonard was a single man who was educated at Walker Council School and was attached to Dewsbury Baptist Church. His occupation in 1911 was a grocery shop assistant.

He served as Private 21/544 in the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was killed in action in France on 21st March 1918, the First Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Leonard was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Leonard is also 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 and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Baptist Church.

In Memory of

Private

Leonard Halstead

21/544, 1st Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 21 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

