



Fearnley Hinchcliffe (Hinchliffe)

1886-1918

Fearnley was born in Thornhill in 1886. His father was Jonathan Hinchcliffe, a Coal Miner born in Thornhill in 1847 and died in 1893. His mother was Sarah Ann (nee Fearnley) born in Briestfield in 1849 and died in 1913. They were married at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 25th December 1868.

Their other children were; Walter, born in 1870 and died in 1903, Harry, born in 1873, Sam, born in 1877, Clara, born in 1881 and Mary Ann, born in 1891.

On the 1891 Census the family are living at 59, Albion Road, Thornhill, in 1901 at “top of Judy Haigh Lane”, Thornhill Edge.

Fearnley was married to Ann/Annie Elizabeth Summerscales (born in Gawthorpe, Ossett in 1886) at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 25th December 1907. On the 1911 Census, Fearnley is living with his mother Sarah Ann and brother Sam at Edge Road, Thornhill Edge, his occupation is shown as a Teamer on a farm; his wife Ann has not been found on this Census. They later had two children; Harry, born in 1912 and Smith, born in 1917. They lived at 16, Leatham Street, Westborough, Dewsbury. Prior to enlistment he worked at Wakefield's Chemicals, Savile Town.

He enlisted in Dewsbury into the 2nd Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 53213. He was killed in action in the Somme Region of France on 8th September 1918 and was buried in Proyart Communal Cemetery Extension, made by the Germans in April-June 1918, and used by the British in August and September 1918, for the burial of 64 soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom and 3 Australian soldiers. In 1923 his remains were reburied in Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, Somme, France. Fearnley was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Harbonnieres was captured by French troops in the summer of 1916. It was retaken by the Germans on 27th April 1918, and regained by the Australian Corps on 8th August 1918. Heath Cemetery, so called from the wide expanse of open country on which it stands, on the straight main road from Amiens to St Quentin, was made after the Armistice, next to a French Military Cemetery, now removed. Graves were brought into it from the battlefields between Bray and Harbonnieres and from other burial grounds in the area. There are now 1,860 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 369 of the burials are unidentified.

Fearnley is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library (his surname is spelt *Hinchliffe*) and as *F. Hinchcliffe* on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of

Private

F Hinchcliffe

53213, 2nd Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 08 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

Heath Cemetery, Harbonnières



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.