



## **Harold Ledgard**

### **1896-1918**

Harold was born in Dewsbury on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1896 and baptised on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1896 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. His father was Harvey Ledgard, a Railway Drayman born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1949. His mother was Ann (nee Godley) born in Dewsbury in 1870 and died in 1927. They were married at St. Philip's Church on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1893.

Their other children were: Elsworth/Ellsworth, born in 1894 and served in World War 1 and Lucy, born in 1900 and died in 1903.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records the family lived at Tentercroft Road, off Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury.

Harold was a single man who was educated at Carlton Road Council School and was a chorister at St. Philip's Church. In 1911 he worked as a Rope and Twine Finisher and in 1916 he worked at the Great Northern Railway Goods Station, Dewsbury where his father also worked as a Drayman.

He enlisted in November 1916 serving as Private 38719 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment and was sent to the Western Front in February 1917. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918 at No. 56 Casualty Clearing Station (Edgehill) at Dernancourt, Somme, France from shrapnel wounds received in action during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). He would have been buried in a cemetery nearby, but No. 56 CCS was evacuated some 20 miles further north-east in the Somme Region to Gezaincourt on 26<sup>th</sup> March. His grave location must have been lost or destroyed in later battles and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Harold was awarded the 1914-15 Star, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Harold 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 from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of

Private

## Harold Ledgard

38719, 7th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment who died on 23 March 1918 Age 22

Son of Harvey Ledgard, of 35, Tenter Croft Rd., Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

LEDGARD H.