



Harry Ellis

1894-1918

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 8th February 1894; his birth name was registered as *Henry Ellis* which was also used in his military records. His father was Herbert Ellis, a Colliery Underground Engineman, born in Hartshead, Liversedge in 1870 and died in 1845. His mother was Eliza (nee Preston) born in Batley in 1870 and died in 1951. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 1st August 1891.

Their other children were; George Herbert, born in 1892, Clara Annie, born in 1896, Joseph, born in 1899 and served in World War 1 and Edward, born in 1902.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 70, Reform Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 20, Church Street, Dewsbury.

Harry was educated at Eastborough Council School and in 1911 worked for Thomas Carr Limited, Staincliffe Mills as a Woollen Yarn Warehouseman. He was married in St. Jude's Church, Plymouth on 14th August 1915 to Amy Harding (born in South Petherton, Somerset in 1893), they had no children.

He enlisted on 20th November 1911 in the Royal Marine Light Infantry with the Service Number PLY/15519 eventually rising to the rank of Sergeant. He saw action in the Great Sea Battle of Jutland in 1916 and also served in the Mediterranean Campaign including the Greek Island of Lemnos. He volunteered to serve on the Western Front serving in the 1st Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry and was killed in action near Anneux, France on 27th September 1918. He was buried in the field and in December 1920 his remains were reburied in Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Hermies is a town in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the road from Bapaume to Cambrai. It was seized on the morning of the 9th April 1917, by a surprise attack of the 2nd and 3rd Australian Infantry Battalions. It was held against the advancing Germans on the 22nd March 1918, by the 17th Division, but evacuated on the following day; it was retaken in September 1918. The cemetery was begun in November 1917, and carried on by fighting units until March 1918, and further graves were added in the following September and after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from a wide area around Hermies and from certain small cemeteries. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 300 are unidentified.

Harry 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 the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown and on the Memorial Plaque in Eastborough School where his name is misspelt as *Herbert Ellis*.

In Memory of
Sergeant

H Ellis

PLY/15519, 1st R.M. Bn. R.N. Div., Royal Marine Light Infantry who died on 27 September 1918

Remembered with Honour
Hermies Hill British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.