



## **Herbert Richardson**

### **1893-1918**

Herbert was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was James Richardson, a Cloth Finisher born in West Hartlepool, County Durham in 1855 and died in 1923. His mother was Eliza Ann (nee Jordan) born in Leeds in 1857 and died in 1920. They were married in St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1884.

Their other children were; Lucy, born in 1885, Ethel, born in 1888 and Ada, born in 1890.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 17, Victoria Road, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 31, Albion Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 94, Elizabeth Place, Battye Street, Dewsbury.

Herbert was a single man who attended Carlton Road School and Springfield Congregational Church and Sunday school. He worked as a "Twister On" in the textile industry and later a Beamer and Warper for Messrs. Armitage and Rhodes, Calder Vale Mills, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in 1910 as a Territorial and rejoined in 1916 serving as Private 37333 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment. He was invalided home suffering from Nephritis and Trench Fever but recovered and returned to the front line. He was killed in action in France on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). On the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> March the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> East Yorkshires reached a line of trenches at Ablaincourt. The night orders had been given that if, on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>, the enemy attacked in strength, divisions were to fall back fighting rearguard actions. At 11:00am on the 26<sup>th</sup> the East Yorkshires came under heavy machine gun fire and accordingly following their orders, they retreated. This was part of the Battle of Rosieres. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Pozieres Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died between 21<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

Herbert 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 Springfield Congregational Church Memorial Plaque now relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

**Herbert Richardson**

37333, 1st/4th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment who died on 26 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Pozières Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

RICHARDSON H.