



Harold Brooke

1893-1918

Harold was born in Earlsheaton in 1893. His father was Charles Brook, a carpenter born in Earlsheaton in 1870 and died in 1900. His mother was Fanny (nee Robinson) born in Otley in 1868 and died in 1956. They were married in 1893.

Their other children were; Gertrude Annie, born in 1895 and Edith Eleanor, born in 1899.

After the death of her husband, Fanny and her children lived with her widowed father Charles Robinson at 103, Town Street, Earlsheaton; after he died in 1907 she continued to live there right up to her death in 1956.

Harold was a single man who worked as a Piecer in the textile industry employed by Messrs S. Lyles, Sons and Company, Jilling Ing Mills, Earlsheaton.

He enlisted in September 1916 serving as Private 202690 in the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; in July 1917 he was hospitalized in France suffering from gas poisoning, but he wrote home that he was a lot better than he had been and there were cases much worse. He was killed in action in France on 27th March 1918 during 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. Harold 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.

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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury and on the Men's Institute plaque which was relocated from the Scout Hut, Syke Lane, Earlsheaton to St. Peter's Church. The Men's Institute was at Highfield United Reformed Congregational Church.

In Memory of

Private

Harold Brooke

202690, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 27 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

