



Harry Morris

1898-1918

Harry was born in Thornhill Lees on 25th October 1898 and baptised on 27th September 1899 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees. His father was Charles Arthur Morris, a Forgerman born in Rotherham in 1876 and died in 1945. His mother was Alice (nee Stanley) born in Thornhill Lees in 1876 and died in 1942. They were married on 20th May 1899 at Holy Innocents Church. Harry was their only child.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 19, Dale Street, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at 49, Dale Street.

Harry was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church School and attended the Wesleyan Methodist Church Sunday school; he worked as a Willeyer for Messrs Wormald and Walker, Ratcliffe Mills, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in September 1917 serving as Private 53736 in the 21st Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was sent to the Western Front during the first week of April 1918. He was wounded in action in France on 19th April 1918 when a small shell fell on him whilst he was part of a working party, suffering injuries to the face, thigh and forearm; he died in a Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Pernes on 21st April 1918 and was buried in Pernes British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Pernes-en-Artois is a small town on the main road from Lillers to St. Pol. The British cemetery is nearly one kilometre west of the town and was not begun until April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance. In May, the 6th and 22nd Clearing Stations arrived and in August, they were joined by the 13th. Almost all the burials were made by these units, but a few of the graves were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice There are now 1,078 First World War burials in this cemetery.

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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Harry Morris

53736, 21st Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 21 April 1918 Age 18

Son of Charles Arthur and Alice Morris, of 49, Dale St., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Pernes British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.