



George William Hirst

1898-1918

George was born in Dewsbury in 1898. His father was Abraham Horsfall Hirst, an Insurance Agent born in Morley in 1863 and died in 1940. His mother was Emily (nee Scott) born in Doncaster in 1872 and died in 1945. They were married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 11th January 1898.

Their other children were: Nellie, born in 1900, Ethel, born in 1903, Lionel Scott, born in 1905 and Hubert, born in 1908.

Abraham was previously married to Katherine Simpson (born in 1866 and died in 1894) in Scarborough in 1889; they had a daughter, Ethel Mary, born in 1891 and died in 1895.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Gregory Street, Hanging Heaton and in 1911 at 46, Hartley Street, Dewsbury.

George was a single man whose occupation was unknown as he was still a schoolboy on the 1911 Census.

He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery serving as Driver 32472 in "A" Battery, 100th Brigade Royal Field Artillery and was sent to the Western Front on 5th September 1915; he was later posted to the Balkan Campaign and was killed in action in Salonica, Greece on 20th June 1918 and was originally buried in Caussica Military Cemetery. Caussica (also known as Chaushitsa) is a village in the marshes on the North side of Lake Ardzan. In November 1920 he was reburied in Karasouli Military Cemetery, Central Macedonia, Greece. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Karasouli Military Cemetery is on the edge of the town of Polykastro (formerly Karasouli) which lies some 73 kilometres from Thessaloniki, between the River Axios (Vardas) and the south end of Lake Ardzan. The cemetery was begun in September 1916 for the use of Casualty Clearing Stations on the Doiran front. At the Armistice, it contained about 500 burials but was greatly increased when graves were brought in from other cemeteries. Karasouli Military Cemetery now contains 1,421 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 56 being unidentified.

George is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Driver

George William Hirst

32472, "A" Bty. 100th Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 20 June 1918 Age 19

Son of Abraham Horsfall Hirst and Emily Hirst, of 46, Hartley St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Karasouli Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.