



## Henry Martin Wright

### 1882-1920

Henry was born *Harry Martin Wright* in Sialkot, Bengal Presidency, India on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1882 and baptised on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1883. His father was Frederick Wright, a Serjeant Major in the Royal Horse Artillery, born in Barkingside, Essex in 1847. His mother was Kitty (nee Webber) born in Exeter, Devon in 1857 and died in 1903. They were married in Exeter on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1876.

Their other children were; John, born in 1879, Kitty Louisa, born in 1885 and died in 1895, Ernest James, born in 1888, Minnie, born in 1890 and died in 1890 and Mabel Winifred, born in 1892.

On the 1881 Census the family are living at Aldershot Barracks, in 1891 at Rectory Grove, Woolwich, London where Frederick's occupation is recorded as a clerk. In 1901 Kitty is a patient in the infirmary of Woolwich Union Workhouse; she died in 1903 in Banstead Asylum, Surrey. In 1903 Mabel is admitted to the Goldie Leigh Cottage Homes which were part of Woolwich Union Workhouse and was later discharged into the care of a Lieutenant Colonel Hutchinson. In 1911 Ernest is in Egypt serving in the Welsh Regiment.

Henry's connection to the Dewsbury area has proved difficult to pinpoint, his Pension Record names his beneficiary as a Mrs. Noble, Briestfield, Dewsbury. The 1901 Census shows a Mr. Squire Noble and his wife Mary and a James Wright, recorded as their adopted son aged 17, born in Lincolnshire whose occupation is a Coal Miner. Their address is given as Holt Lane, Briestfield which is the same address in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour for Henry Martin Wright. Taking the above information collectively it would seem that it all equates to Henry and he must have returned to the Dewsbury area following his discharge in 1918.

He attested into the Militia on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1903 serving as Private 9577 in the Notts and Derby Regiment but was recorded absent from training in 1904. He later served as Private 9469 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers; the low number suggests he enlisted around 1903/04. He served in India and was awarded the Indian General Service Medal for 1908 with the North West Frontier 1908 Clasp. On the 1911 Census he is stationed at Sheffield Barracks.

At the outbreak of the war he was sent to the Western Front on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, he was wounded in December 1914 and later served as Private 214321 in the Royal Engineers and as Private 381331 in the Labour Corps. He was discharged on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1918 with Silver War Badge number 24141. Henry was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He died at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Beckett Park, Leeds on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1920 aged 38 from shock during an operation for treatment of Tuberculosis of the knee caused by war service. His occupation on the death certificate was given as a coal miner and his address as 139, Lister's Buildings, Lees Hall Road, Dewsbury. He is buried in Thornhill (St. Michael) Churchyard.

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

He is one of twenty men named on the above but who are not recorded as official war casualties, due to their cause of death not being officially attributed to war service.