



## Harry Hebblethwaite Wilde (Wild)

### 1894-1918

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1894, his surname was registered as Wilde but there are many instances of his family and himself recorded as *Wild*. His father was Walter Hebblethwaite *Wild*, a Slater born in Dewsbury in 1867 and died in 1943. His mother was Sarah Ann (nee Oldroyd) born in Alverthorpe, Wakefield in 1869 and died in 1928. They were married at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1892.

Their other children were; Arthur Hebblethwaite *Wild*, born in 1893 and died in 1893 and Herbert Wallis Wilde, born in 1898 and died in 1898.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 107, John Street, Dewsbury (recorded as *Wild*), in 1911 at Woodville, Leeds Road, Dewsbury (recorded as *Wild*) and later at 21, Back Marriott Street, Dewsbury.

Harry was a single man who was attached to both St. Philip's Church and Leeds Road Baptist Church where he was a popular member of the Leeds Road Baptist Football Club; he worked as a Miner in one of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton's collieries, probably at Shaw Cross.

He enlisted at Bradford in January 1915 serving as Driver T/35850 in the Army Service Corps and was sent to the Western Front on 9<sup>th</sup> September that same year; he was run over by a motor lorry near Merville, France on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and spent seven weeks in hospital. He transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers as Private 41293 from 26<sup>th</sup> September 1917 to 5<sup>th</sup> February 1918 and after attending Signal School in March 1918 he was posted on 11<sup>th</sup> April to the 11<sup>th</sup> Division Signal Company of the Royal Engineers serving as Pioneer 360480. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918 he was on an advanced visual signalling station in northern France with four other men. Orders were received to move to a new position but it was a very dark night and while the party were moving forward he fell into a disused well, sustaining serious injuries. One of his comrades descended into the well at the end of a rope and brought him to the surface; he was taken to a field hospital but died the same evening. Letters received by his parents left no doubt of the high regard in which his superior officers held him. He was buried in Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery contains 885 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 37 of the burials are unidentified.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library on which his surname is spelt as *Wild* and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the Memorial Plaque to former employees of Messrs Crawshaw and Warburton in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton.

In Memory of

Pioneer

## Harry Hebblethwaite Wilde

360480, 11th Div. Signal Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 04 November 1918 Age 24

Son of Walter and Sarah Ann Wilde, of 21, Back Marriott St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memory" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.