



Harry Asquith

1880-1918

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 18th March 1880 and baptised at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 12th May 1880. His father was William Asquith, a Bank Cashier born in Dewsbury in 1846 and died in 1920. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Greenwood) born in Dewsbury in 1846 and died in 1905. They were married on 29th April 1869 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Amy, born in 1870, Edith, born in 1871, Arthur, born in 1873, May, born in 1875 and Lizzie, born in 1877.

On the 1871, 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at 16, Upper Cross Street, Dewsbury and in 1901 and 1911 at 1, Wood End Terrace, Hanging Heaton.

Harry was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church School and in 1901 he was employed as an Outfitter's Assistant; he was married to Emma Alice Urwin (born in Whitby in 1880 and died in 1957) at St. Mary's Parish Church in Whitby on 8th July 1907. In 1911 they were living at 29, Bellbrook Place, Leeds but by the time of Harry's death they were living at and running the Post Office at Ackworth near Pontefract. They had a son, Austin, born in Wakefield on 22nd October 1908.

He enlisted in Pontefract serving as Private 241993 in the 9th (Glasgow Highlanders) Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry. He was killed in action in Northern France on 12th October 1918 and was buried in Montay-Neuvilly Road Cemetery, Montay, Nord, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Montay is a village on the northern outskirts of Le Cateau. The Cemetery is one kilometre north of the village on the eastern side of the road to Solesmes. This cemetery was made by the 23rd Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery, on 26th and 27th October 1918. It contained originally 111 graves, mainly of officers and men of the 38th (Welsh) and 33rd Divisions, and the 6th Dorsets, but after the Armistice it was increased when graves were brought in from the battlefields west, north and east of Montay, and from certain small cemeteries. There are now 470 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery. 61 of the burials are unidentified but there is a special memorial to one casualty believed to be buried among them. All fell in the period October or November 1918.

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 Plaque to former pupils of Dewsbury Parish Church School and on the Ackworth War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

Harry Asquith

241993, 9th (Glasgow Hds.) Bn., Highland Light Infantry who died on 12 October 1918 Age 38

Son of William and Elizabeth Ann Asquith, of Dewsbury; husband of Emma Alice Asquith, of Ackworth, Pontefract, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Montay-Neuvilly Road Cemetery, Montay



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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