



Henry (Harry) Davill MM

1897-1918

Henry was born in York in 1897; his birth name is recorded as *Harry Davill*. His father was Henry Wood Davill, a Farm Labourer born in Farlington near York in 1867 and died in 1953. His mother was Mary Agnes (nee Daley) born in Ireland in 1867 and died in 1935. They were married in 1886.

Their other children were; Thomas, born in 1887 and served in World War 1, Mary Ann, born in 1889, James, born in 1891 and died in 1891, John Henry, born in 1893 and died of wounds and sickness on 31st July 1915, Charles, born in 1895 and served in World War 1, Norah, born in 1899, Leonard, born in 1902, Richard, born in 1904 and Kate, born in 1906.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Hope Street, Walmgate, York, in 1901 at Ellenthorpe Hall, Aldbrough near Boroughbridge, in 1911 at Appleton Roebuck near York; by 1914 the family had moved to live at 79, Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe.

Henry was a single man who worked as a Farm Labourer for Mr G.W. Walker, Paradise Farm, Mirfield.

He joined up on 1st May 1915 but was sent back home when his true age was discovered and rejoined when he was 19, serving in the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 30318, rising to the rank of Corporal. In May 1918 he was awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field which was published in the London Gazette on 18th July 1918. He was wounded in the chest in northern France during an attack on the villages of Limont-Fontaine and Eclaibes on 7th November and was admitted to the 21st Casualty Clearing Station at Caudry on 11th November where he underwent an operation which was thought to have been successful, but a later x-ray showed a small piece of shrapnel behind his heart. He died on 14th November 1918 and was buried in Caudry British Cemetery, Nord, France. In addition to the Military Medal, Henry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Caudry is a town some 13 Kms east of Cambrai on the south side of the main road to Le Cateau. The town was the scene of part of the Battle of Le Cateau in August 1914, and from then it remained in German hands until the 10th October 1918, when it was captured by the 37th Division. It had been a German centre for medical units and during October 1918 and the following five months the 21st, 3rd, 19th and 49th Casualty Clearing Stations passed through it. The British Cemetery (originally called the German Cemetery Extension) was begun in October 1918 by the New Zealand Division and carried on by the Casualty Clearing Stations. It was completed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the German Cemetery and from the nearby Audencourt British Cemetery. There are now over 700, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 50 are unidentified.

Henry 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Corporal

Henry Davill

M M

30318, 9th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 14 November 1918 Age 21

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davill.

Remembered with Honour

Caudry British Cemetery



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.