



Harry Heald MM

1897-1922

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 1st April 1897 and baptised 2nd May 1897 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. His father was Albert Edward Heald, a blacksmith's striker born Wakefield in 1863 and died in 1920. His mother was Mary Hannah (nee Daw) born in Knottingley in 1868 and died in 1937. They were married on 17th October 1886 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

Their other children were; John, born in 1887 and died in 1894, Albert, born in 1898 and was killed in action 3rd October 1918, William, born in 1889 and died in 1889, Blanche, born in 1891, Stanley, born in 1893 and died in 1894, Emily, born in 1895, Herbert, born in 1902 and Mary, born in 1911. They also adopted a boy, Harry Stead who served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at 7, Oates Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 55, South Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 6, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury and later at 7, Webster Street, Dewsbury.

Mary was remarried to George Firth (born in 1865 and died in 1935) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 22nd July 1920.

Harry was a single man who was educated at Dewsbury Parish Church Day School and Sunday school; in 1911 he worked as a Woollen Winder and later as a Railway Porter.

He enlisted in "B" Section, 246th Battalion, Royal Field Artillery serving as a Driver with the Service Numbers 3358, 780913 and 265915 and was wounded only once in four years service. He was awarded the Military Medal on 13th October 1918 for Gallantry in the Field, which was announced in the London Gazette on 17th June 1919. In addition to the Military Medal, Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He re-enlisted in the field on 31st December 1919 with the Service Number 1044543 but died on 14th August 1922 in the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley near Southampton where he had been treated for Chronic Tubular Nephritis for one year and 3 months. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery.

Harry 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 six men named on the above who are not recorded as official war casualties due to their date of death being after the official Commonwealth War Graves Commission cut-off date of 31st August 1921.



IN
LOVING MEMORY OF
ALBERT EDWARD
HEALD.
DIED FEB. 9, 1926, AGED 57 YEARS.
ALSO MARY HANNAH, HIS WIFE
DIED JAN. 25, 1937, AGED 68 YEARS.
ALSO HARRY AND ALBERT, SONS
OF THE ABOVE.
ALSO JOHN WILLIAM AND STANLEY
WHO DIED IN INFANCY.