



Joseph Harold Hepworth Marsden 1881-1920

Harold, as he was known by his family, was born in Dewsbury on 18th May 1881 and baptised on 26th June 1881 in a Non-Conformist ceremony. His father was Wilson Marsden, a Grocer born in Dewsbury in 1855 and died in 1886. His mother was Ann (nee Blakeley) born in Dewsbury in 1856 and died in 1924. They were married in 1880.

They had one more child; a son, Herbert Vernon, born 12th November 1882.

On the 1881 Census his parents Wilson and Ann were living at Stonefield Street, Dewsbury, in 1891 Harold and his mother and brother were living with his maternal grandparents Joseph and Martha Blakeley at 7, Meadow Cottages, Dewsbury and in 1901 at 29, Meadow Road, Dewsbury.

Harold worked as a Grocer's Assistant in 1901. He was married to Amy Walker (born in 1879 and died in 1927) on 7th March 1904 at Salem Methodist Church, Dewsbury. For seventeen years they ran a stationary and newspaper business which was also a sub-post office at 92, Bradford Road, Dewsbury. They had a son; Edwin Wilson, born on 7th July 1904. Harold was the secretary of the Dewsbury Newsagents' Association, treasurer of District Sub-Postmasters' Society and a member of the Dewsbury Chamber of Trade.

He enlisted in the 13th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps serving as Private/Rifleman R/37991 and served on the Western Front. At some stage he contracted Trench Fever and was discharged from service on 9th January 1919. He returned home to run his business but his health gradually deteriorated and for the last seven weeks of his life he was confined to bed. He died at his home on 10th May 1920 from Aortic and Mitral Disease and Cardiac Failure caused by war service. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Harold 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.

In Loving Memory of
HAROLD,
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF
AMY MARSDEN,
LATE OF POST OFFICE, BRADFORD ROAD, DEWSBURY
WHO DIED MAY 10TH 1920.
AGED 38 YEARS.
"AT REST."
ALSO
AMY, THE BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED SEPT 10TH 1927,
AGED 48 YEARS.
"PEACE PERFECT PEACE!"