



Herbert Alfred Croft

1895 – 1915

Herbert was born in Leeds in 1895. His birth name is recorded as *Herbert Cliffe*. His father was Tom Oswald/Oswell Croft, a Piecer in a woollen works born in Leeds in 1874 and died in 1939. His mother was Kate (nee Cliffe) born in Leeds in 1876 and died in 1945. They were married at St. Mark's Church, Woodhouse, Leeds on 26th December 1895.

Their other children were; Clifford, born in Leeds in 1897, Oswald, born in Leeds in 1899, Frank, born in Leeds in 1902 and died in 1903, Alfred, born in Leeds in 1903, Dorothy Irene, born in Dewsbury in 1905, Clarice, born in Dewsbury in 1906 and Olive, born in Dewsbury in 1910.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 102, Bayswater Road, Potternewton, Leeds, in 1911 at 7, Well Street, Bradford Road, Dewsbury and in 1915 at 39, Albion Street, Batley.

Herbert was a single man who on the 1911 census, is recorded as a Plaiter in a Woollen Finishing Mill, and later at Messrs G and J Stubbley, Bottoms Mills in the napping department.

He enlisted as Private 15314 in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 2nd September 1914 but was transferred to the Nelson Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 15th October 1914 with the Service Number KW/225, rising to the rank of Able Seaman. He was killed in action during the Gallipoli Campaign on 25th May 1915. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsular, Turkey. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He was home for Christmas 1914 and shortly afterwards left the country with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. His first and last letter from the Dardanelles was received a fortnight before his death, when he said, "*We are doing very well at present here, just now, and we have nothing to grumble at about food, only the biscuits are a bit hard.*"

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who were lost at sea, in one of the troopships sunk off Gallipoli. Over 20,000 names are commemorated on this memorial

Herbert is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of
Able Seaman

Herbert Alfred Croft

KW/225, Nelson Bn. R.N. Div., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 25 May 1915 Age 19

Son of Tom Oswald Croft and Kate Croft, of 39, Albion St., Batley, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Helles Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

CROFT H. A.