



## Harry Ellis 1890 – 1917

Harry was born in Dewsbury in 1890. His birth name was registered as *Henry Archer*. His father was Jonas Ellis (birth name registered as *Jonas Archer*) a Rag Merchant who became a confectioner (sweets) born in Dewsbury in 1851 and died in 1913. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Lister) born in Dewsbury in 1857 and died in 1927. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1876.

Jonas was born before his parents were married in 1853, his mother was Harriet Archer and his father was Henry Hartley Ellis, so legally he was Jonas Archer.

Their other children (with registered birth names) were; *Florence Archer*, born in 1876, *Hartley Ellis Archer*, born in 1878, *Maud Archer*, born in 1880, *Fanny Archer*, born in 1883, *Elsie May Archer Ellis*, born in 1893, and *Allan Edward Ellis*, born in 1901.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at 18, Stonefield Street, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 51, Mill Road, Dewsbury in 1911 at 39, High Street, Westtown and later at 66, Cemetery Road, Westtown

Harry was a single man who was educated at Carlton Road School and played for the Moorlands Wesleyan Cricket Club. He was engaged to the youngest daughter of Councillor Joseph Oldroyd. He worked in his late uncle Fred Ellis's rag merchants business in Hirst Road, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in August 1915 serving as Driver 81910 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of the Ammunition Column of the Royal Field Artillery and was sent to the Western Front on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1915. He was killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1917 during the Battle of Arras and is buried in Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery is in the western part of the town of Arras. The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier, it continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity. The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified.

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 in the porch of the now closed St. Matthew's Church, Westtown and on the Memorial Plaque from Moorlands Wesleyan Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church.

In Memory of

Driver

**Harry Ellis**

81910, 3rd Div. Ammunition Col., Royal Field Artillery who died on 18 April 1917 Age 27

Son of Jonas and Elizabeth Ann Ellis, of 66, Cemetery Rd., West Town, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

**Faubourg D'amiens Cemetery, Arras**



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

