



## **Harold Lee Ward**

### **1896 - 1916**

Harold was born in Earlsheaton on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1896 and baptised on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1896 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. His father was John Ward, a Dyer in a woollen blanket mill born in Earlsheaton in 1861 and died in 1915. His mother was Hephzibah (nee Lee) born in Earlsheaton in 1864 and died in 1941. They were married at St. Peter's Church on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1891.

They had two more sons; Walter, born in 1892 and was killed in action 16<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and Norman, born in 1898.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Cross Street, Soothill Nether, Earlsheaton, in 1911 at New Street, Soothill Nether and later at 24, Commercial Street, Earlsheaton.

Harold was a single man who was educated at the National School, Earlsheaton and worked as a Piecer in the blanket mill of Mr. Mark Day. He was a member of the Highfield Cricket Club.

He enlisted in late 1915 into the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 26419 and was sent to the Western Front in April 1916. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 during the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Harold 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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and the Oak Reredos in St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and on the Institute Plaque in St. Peter's Church Hall and on the Memorial Plaque from the now demolished Earlsheaton Highfield Congregational Church relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

## Harold Lee Ward

26419, 8th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 01 July 1916 Age 20

Son of Mrs. Hephzibah Ward, of 24, Commercial St., Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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