



## Harold Grace

### 1899-1918

Harold was born in Thornhill in 1899. His father was John Grace, a coal miner born in Thornhill in 1855 and died in 1925. His mother was Sarah (nee Draper) born in Thornhill in 1858 and died in 1937. They were married on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1880 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were; Draper, born in 1880, Mary, born in 1881 and died in 1881, Er, born in 1883, Humphrey, born in 1885, Hubert, born in 1889, Eva, born in 1891, Leonard, born in 1894 and served in World War I, Gladys, born in 1896, John, born in 1901 and Gilbert, born in 1904.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Edge Top, Thornhill, in 1901 at Lees Hall Road, Thornhill Lees and in 1911 at Ouzelwell Hall, Thornhill Lees.

Harold was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Church of England School and was connected for many years with the choir and Sunday school of the Baptist Church, Whiteley Road, Thornhill. He worked as a clerk for a Mr. A. Bodenheim, rag merchant.

He enlisted on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1917 serving as Private 77274 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was sent to The Western Front on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1918. He was killed in action in France on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918, the First Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Harold 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 War Memorial in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

In Memory of

Private

**Harold Grace**

77274, 2nd Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 21 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

**Arras Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

GRACE H.