



## Harry Halmshaw

### 1899-1918

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1899 and baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1899 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury. His father was Fred Halmshaw, a labourer at a dyeworks born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1939. His mother was Annie (nee Whitaker) born in Dewsbury in 1873 and died in 1913. They were married at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1897.

Their other children were; Arthur, born in 1898 and died in 1898, Lena, born in 1901 and John William, born in 1909 and died in 1910.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at 16, Halliley Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 3, Back Halliley Street and later at 24, Brookes Yard, Fall Lane, Dewsbury.

Fred was remarried to a widow, Elizabeth Ann Hanson (born in 1876 and died in 1957) at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916.

Harry was a single man who was educated at Victoria Jubilee Council School, he also attended St. James's Mission, where in addition to being a chorister he was a bugler and drummer in the Mission's Church Lads Brigade. He worked as a cloth miller for Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons, Calder Mills.

In 1915 he enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but his father obtained his release from the Army on account of his age. He then enrolled in the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1916 with the Service Number Z/10158 in the Tyneside Battalion, giving his date of birth as 10<sup>th</sup> July 1898. He rose to the rank of Able Seaman and served aboard an armed merchant cruiser, H.M.S. "Armada Castle" whose later duties was to escort the Troop Ships between New York to Liverpool carrying men of the American Army. His obituary in the Dewsbury District News stated he had "*caught a chill on his last voyage*" and he died in hospital at Plymouth Naval Barracks from double pneumonia and scarlet fever on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1918 and was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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 from the now demolished St. James's Mission Church now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.

In Memory of  
Able Seaman

**H Halmshaw**

TynesideZ/10158, H.M.S. "Armada Castle", Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 18 October 1918

Remembered with Honour  
**Dewsbury Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

