



## **Reginald Oldroyd 1898-1918**

Reginald was born in Mirfield on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1898 and baptised at the Methodist Connexion Chapel on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1898. His father was Harry Oldroyd, a Railway Goods Agent born in Wakefield in 1866 and died in 1939. His mother was Elizabeth Helena (nee Wildman) born in Kendal, Westmoreland in 1863 and died in 1928. They were married in 1891.

Their other children were; Florence Helena, born in Pontefract in 1892 and died in 1892, Winifred, born in Pontefract in 1894, Dorothea, born in Pontefract in 1895 and Marjorie, born in Halifax in 1907.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Waste Lane, Mirfield and in 1911 at "Glenholme" 21, Slaithwaite Road, Thornhill Lees.

Harry was remarried on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1930 to Bertha Frances Wildman (born in 1875 and died in 1939) at Salem United Methodist Church, Dewsbury. She was the sister of his late wife.

Reginald was a single man who worked as a clerk in the Dewsbury office of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway for whom his father Harry was a well-known Railway Goods Agent at Thornhill Station. Like his parents he was connected to Salem United Methodist Church and was a member of the Boy's Brigade there.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1916 serving as Ordinary Seaman and later Signaller Z/1044 in the Tyneside Division from 21<sup>st</sup> November 1916 and served on 7 ships. He was aboard H.M. Trawler "GM" when he died of Dysentery and Heart Failure on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1918; he was buried on an island in the Cyclades, a Greek island group in the Aegean Sea. In 1921 his remains were reburied in Syra New British Cemetery, Greece. Reginald was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Syra is an island of the Cyclades. The Cemetery is in the town of Hermoupolis, the capital of the Central Aegean Region. Syra New British Cemetery was made in June 1921, to take the scattered Commonwealth war burials from the islands of the Cyclades. There are now 111 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 45 of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials commemorate 11 casualties known to be buried among them. Three special memorials bear the names of casualties buried on Antiparos and Skarpanto whose graves had been washed away.

Reginald 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 Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Memorial Plaque from the Salem United Methodist Church, now stored in the Resource Centre at Batley Central Methodist Church and on the War Memorial at Manchester Victoria Station to the men of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway who gave their lives in the Great War.

In Memory of  
Signalman

## Reginald Oldroyd

TynesideZ/1044, H.M. Trawler "G.M.", Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 18 October 1918 Age 20

Son of Harry and Helena Oldroyd, of "Glenholme", 21, Slaithwaite Rd., Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
Syra New British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Project of Michael McCann.