



Irvin Smith

1892-1918

Irvin was born in Earlsheaton on 9th August 1892 and was baptised on 18th September 1892 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. His father was William Smith, a Railway Porter born in Earlsheaton in 1864 and died in 1906. His mother was Elizabeth (nee Hartland) born in Wednesbury, Staffordshire in 1863 and died in 1928. They were married at Christ Church, South Ossett on 9th November 1885.

Their other children were; Eleanor, born in 1886, Annis, born in 1888 and died in 1888, Maud, born in 1890, Percy, born in 1895 and died in 1896 and Herbert, born in 1902.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Down Street, Earlsheaton, in 1901 at Headland Lane, Earlsheaton, in 1911 at Walker Street, Earlsheaton and later at 14, Taylor's Yard, Earlsheaton.

Irvin was educated at Earlsheaton Council and Highfield Congregational Church Schools and was a member of Earlsheaton Central Working Men's Club; he worked as a willeyer at the Spinkwell Mills of Messrs Mark Oldroyd and Sons. He was married on 22nd June 1912 at All Saints Church Batley to Ethel Johnson (born in Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham in 1890 and died in 1916) they had a son, John William, born 30th November 1912.

He enlisted on 26th September 1916 at Dewsbury serving as Private 19111 in the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. He was sent to the Western Front in March 1917 and was wounded in June 1917, 24 pieces of shrapnel entering his back and legs; after recovering from these severe wounds, he returned to the front in March 1918. He was killed in action in France near Cambrai on 27th September 1918 and was buried in Sanders Keep Military Cemetery, Graincourt-les-Havrincourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. Irvin was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Graincourt-les-Havrincourt is a village 10 kilometres south west of Cambrai. "Sanders Keep" was a German fortification 2 kilometres South-West of the village, between the Hermies and Havrincourt roads. It was stormed by the Scots Guards on the 27th September 1918, and after the fight the British and German dead were buried on the battlefield by the Guards Division Burial Officer. There are now nearly 150, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified.

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

In Memory of

Private

Irvin Smith

19111, 1st Bn., Coldstream Guards who died on 27 September 1918 Age 26

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, of 14, Taylor's Yard, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour

Sanders Keep Military Cemetery, Graincourt-Les-Havrincourt



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



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.