



## **Harry Macdonald**

### **1888-1918**

Harry was born in Mirfield on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1888 and baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1888 at the Church of Christ the King, Battysford, Mirfield. His father was John Alfred Macdonald, a Railway Signal Fitter born in Brinklow, Warwickshire in 1855 and died in 1931. His mother was Mary Emma (nee Ellis) born in Mirfield in 1865 and died in 1940. They were married at the Church of Christ the King on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1885.

Their other children who could be traced were; John William, born in 1885 and served in World War 1 and Gertrude, born in 1890 and died in 1891. On the 1911 Census they declare four children born to the marriage of which two had died.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Battye Street, Mirfield, in 1901 at John Street, Ravensthorpe and in 1911 at 89, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe.

Harry was a member of Ravensthorpe Liberal Club and worked as a tailor for Mr. A. Algate of Ravensthorpe; he was married to Lilian Maud Hemingway (born in 1890 and died in 1972) on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1913 at St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury. They lived at 6, Duke Street, Ravensthorpe and had two children; Hector, born in 1914 and Eric, born in 1916. Lilian was remarried to Harold Sheard (born in 1899 and died in 1969) on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1921 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe.

He was called up on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916 and joined the Royal Naval Reserve serving as Deck Hand 12209/DA. He was posted to the Mediterranean where he served on minesweeping duties on motor launches working from HMS "Europa" an old cruiser which had been built in 1897 and until 1915 she had been part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Squadron working off West Africa but had become a depot ship later that year and was based in Mudros harbour on the island of Lemnos in the Aegean Sea, near the Gallipoli Peninsular. It was at Mudros harbour that the Turks signed their armistice at the end of October 1918. He was taken ill with influenza and broncho-pneumonia (Spanish Flu) and was taken to the Hospital Ship "Ferashon" where he died on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1918; he was buried in East Mudros Military Cemetery, Lemnos, Greece. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Because of its position, the island of Lemnos played an important part in the campaigns against Turkey during the First World War. East Mudros Military Cemetery was begun in April 1915 and used until September 1919. It contains 885 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 86 of them unidentified.

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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Deck Hand

## H Macdonald

12209/DA, H.M.S. "Europa", Royal Naval Reserve who died on 06 December 1918

Son of John and Mary Emma Macdonald, of Ravensthorpe; husband of Lillian Maud Sheard (formerly Macdonald), of 6, Duke St., Ravensthorpe, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

East Mudros Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

