



## Harry Ellis Walshaw 1897-1918

Harry was born in Thornhill Lees on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1897. His father was William Walshaw, a glass blower, born in Thornhill Lees in 1867 and died in 1908. His mother was Mary Jane (nee Ellis) born in Walton near Wakefield in 1872 and died in 1922. They were married on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1890 at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees.

They also had two daughters; Florrie Ellis, born in 1892 and Hannah, born in 1900 and died in 1901.

Mary Jane was remarried in 1910 to Joseph Fox (born in 1879 and died in 1949) they had a son, John Edward, born that same year.

Harry was a single man who in 1911 was working as an Errand Boy for a firm of Hatters and Haberdashery Merchants.

He enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment with the Service Number 6359 and was later transferred into the 2<sup>nd</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of The King's (Liverpool Regiment) serving as Private 53490. His first name is recorded as *Henry* on his entries in the Medal Award Rolls and Soldiers Effects. He was killed in action in France on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1918 and was buried in Couin New British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Couin is a village 15 kilometres east of Doullens. Couin Chateau was used as a divisional headquarters from 1915 to 1918. The British Cemetery was begun in May 1916 by the field ambulances of the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division, and was used by units and field ambulances during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It was closed at the end of January 1917 because further extension was not possible, and now contains 401 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The New British Cemetery was opened across the road and was used by field ambulances from January 1917 (with a long interval in 1917-18) to the end of the war. One grave was moved there after the Armistice from a cemetery at Coigneux. It now contains 360 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and as *Henry Walshaw* on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

**H E Walshaw**

53490, 2nd/8th Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on 17 June 1918 Age 20

Son of Mrs. M. J. Fox.

Remembered with Honour

**Couin New British Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

