



George Will Barraclough 1895-1918

George was born in Pontefract in 1895. His father was Henry Barraclough, a Police Superintendent with the West Riding Constabulary born in Ackworth, Yorkshire in 1864 and died in 1930. His mother was Maud (nee Dudgeon) born in Ripon in 1870 and died in 1951. They were married at Holy Trinity Church, Ripon on 7th June 1893.

Their other children were; Edward, born in Shipley in 1902 and Mary, born in Ingleton in 1908.

Henry joined the police in 1889 and was stationed at Pontefract, Shipley, Ingleton, Huddersfield and Dewsbury. He rose to the rank of Superintendent.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 31, Kirkgate, Shipley, in 1911 at 6, Princess Street, Huddersfield and in 1918 at Grove Street, Dewsbury.

George was a single man who was educated at Almondbury Grammar School, Huddersfield and was later employed by Mr. J. E. Crowther at Bank Bottom Mills, Marsden, Huddersfield. He was well known as a regular attendee of the Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church.

At the outbreak of war he was a member of the Huddersfield Territorial Force and served with the 2nd/6th Battalion and later the 5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front on 15th April 1915. He rose to the rank of Serjeant with the Service Numbers 2204, 7536 and 203567. At Ypres, in November 1915, he received twenty wounds, and lost the sight of his right eye. Later he became an instructor in the home camps. On 24th September 1917, he obtained his commission, and a month later went to the Front again with the 6th Battalion, being later attached to the 2nd/4th Battalion. He was posthumously awarded the Military Cross which was published in the "London Gazette" on 1st February 1919. The citation reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry in action at Havrincourt between 12th and 15th September 1918. With only ten men he entered an uncaptured portion of the enemy line and mopped up 100 yards of it, compelling four machine-gun teams to surrender. Again, later in the village, he knocked out a machine gun, which was holding up the advance and captured it."* He was killed in action in Northern France on 29th September 1918 and was buried in Grand Ravine British Cemetery, Havrincourt, Pas-de-Calais, France. In addition to the Military Cross, George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His Colonel, P.P. Wilson wrote; *"I cannot express to you my admiration of the very gallant conduct of your son. During recent operations I had the honour of recommending him for the Military Cross, and I sincerely regret that he has not lived to receive the honour."* Another officer wrote: *"He was lying with his face towards the enemy, and around him lay large numbers of dead Germans-a silent tribute to his prowess as a fighter."*

Havrincourt is a village approximately 10 kilometres south west of Cambrai and 3 kilometres south of the Cambrai to Bapaume road. Havrincourt was stormed by the 62nd (West Riding) Division on 20th November 1917. It was lost on 23rd March 1918, but it was retaken on 12th September by the 62nd Division, who held it against a counter-attack the following day. Grand Ravine British Cemetery contains 139 First World War burials, 11 of them unidentified.

George is commemorated on the on the War Memorial on the outside wall of Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill and in the book; "Huddersfield's Roll of Honour 1914-1922" by J. Margaret Stansfield (Published in 2014).

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant

G W BARRACLOUGH

Military Cross

6th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 29 September 1918

Son of Mr. H. Barraclough, of Grove St., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

GRAND RAVINE BRITISH CEMETERY, HAVRINCOURT

C. 13.



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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the "In Memories" Website of Pierre Vandervelden.