



## **Harry Gaunt**

### **1895-1918**

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1895 and baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1896 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. His father was Richard Gaunt, a Blanket Raiser born in Dewsbury in 1860 and died in 1925. His mother was Sarah Jane (nee Ingham) born in Whitley near Dewsbury in 1862 and died in 1945. They were married at St. John the Evangelist Church on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1889.

Their other children were; Albert, born in 1890 and died of wounds 8<sup>th</sup> August 1917, Annie, born in 1893 and died in 1894, Emma, born in 1898 and Horace, born in 1901.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 28, Heckmondwike Road, Dewsbury Moor and in 1901 and 1911 at 40, Heckmondwike Road.

Harry was a single man who was educated at St. John's School and attended the Church. He worked as a Piecener in 1911 and later as a Willeyer at Messrs Wormald and Walker's Mill.

He enlisted in April 1916 serving as Private 28520 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and took part in the Great French Battles of Bullecourt in May 1917 and Cambrai in November 1917; he had been twice wounded and came home on leave in March 1918. He died of wounds in a hospital near Boulogne, France on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1918 and was buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The first rest camps for Commonwealth forces were established near Terlincthun in August 1914 and during the whole of the First World War, Boulogne and Wimereux housed numerous hospitals and other medical establishments. The cemetery at Terlincthun was begun in June 1918 when the space available for service burials in the civil cemeteries of Boulogne and Wimereux was exhausted. It was used chiefly for burials from the base hospitals. In July 1920, the cemetery contained more than 3,300 burials, but for many years Terlincthun remained an 'open' cemetery and graves continued to be brought into it from isolated sites and other burials grounds throughout France where maintenance could not be assured. The cemetery now contains 4,378 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 on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

In Memory of  
Private  
**H Gaunt**

28520, 2nd/5th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 23 July 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Nigel Marshall.