



Harry Tyas

1890 – 1916

Harry was born in Dewsbury on 15th November 1890. His father was Richard Tyas, a Coal Miner born in Dewsbury in 1857 and died in 1931. His mother was Sarah Jane (née Secker) born in Brighouse in 1857 and died in 1917. They were married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 6th April 1878.

Their other children were; Minnie, born in 1878, George William, born in 1880 and died in 1882, Secker, born in 1883, Willie, born in 1886 and served in World War 1, Ethel, born in 1888, Percy, born in 1893 and served in World War 1, Irwin, born in 1895 and died in 1895 and Florrie, born in 1896 and died in 1896.

On the 1881 and 1891 Census Records the family lived at 26, Moorend Lane, Dewsbury Moor, in 1901 at 45, Moorend Lane and in 1911 at 185, Staincliffe Road, Dewsbury.

Harry was a single man who was educated at the Staincliffe National School. By 1911 he was working as a cotton spinner. He was the organist at the Zion Primitive Methodist Chapel at Kilpin Hill, Dewsbury where he had previously attended Sunday school.

He initially joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in November 1915 but transferred to 115th Company Machine Gun Corps serving as Private 11895 and was sent to the Western Front in May 1916. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 10th July 1916; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His friend Private J. Mellor, also from Dewsbury and who was with Harry when he died, wrote from hospital in Aberdeen to inform his parents of the circumstances. On 10th July the gun team went out to the trenches. They were one short so Harry was called upon to make up the numbers. They were in an exposed position and subject to heavy German shelling which finally hit them. Harry suffered a large shrapnel wound to the chest and by the time his friend reached him, Harry and three others were dead. Only two of the gun team survived.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.

Harry is also 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

Harry Tyas

11895, 115th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 10 July 1916 Age 25

Son of Richard and Sarah Jane Tyas, of 185, Staincliffe Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

