



Harry Smith 1890-1918

Harry was born in Dewsbury Moor in 1890. His father was Charles Smith, a Card Cleaner in the textile industry born in Macclesfield, Cheshire in 1848 and died in 1923. His mother was Mary Ann (nee Balmforth) born in Dewsbury in 1852 and died in 1909. They were married on 12th April 1873 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were: William Edward, born in 1874, Albert, born in 1876, Sarah Ann, born in 1878, Alice, born in 1880, Mary Ann, born in 1883, Thomas, born in 1886 and Lily, born in 1888.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived at 34, Back Russell Street, Dewsbury Moor and in 1911 at 13, Wroe Street, Dewsbury Moor and later at 17, Ravenshouse Road, Scout Hill, Dewsbury.

Harry was educated at Dewsbury Moor Council School and was connected to Dewsbury Moor Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday school; he also played for Dewsbury Juniors Football Club. He worked for Mr. J. W. Bennett, Painter and Decorator of Heckmondwike and was married at the Wesleyan Methodist Centenary Chapel, Dewsbury on 19th February 1916 to Amy Lilley (born in 1893 and died in 1977). They lived at 14, Kensington Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and did not have any children. Amy was remarried on 20th August 1927 to George Henry Balmforth (born in 1888 and died in 1965) they had a son, William, born in 1928.

He enlisted in Dewsbury in March 1916 joining the 2nd/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 202387 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was sent to the Western Front in January 1917 and was home on leave in February 1918. He died in a hospital in France on 18th April 1918 from wounds sustained in action the previous day and was buried in Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His wife Amy received a letter from a Captain Gilmour, in which he stated that "*Lance Corporal Smith was one of the best NCO's in the company and his loss is greatly felt by officers and men alike.*"

Bienvillers is a large village 18 kilometres south-west of Arras. The cemetery was begun in September 1915 until March 1917; it was reopened from March to September 1918, when the village was again near the front line. Bienvillers Military Cemetery now contains 1,605 Commonwealth burials and commemorations 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
Lance Corporal

Harry Smith

202387, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 18 April 1918 Age 27

Husband of Amy Smith, of 14, Kensington St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Bienvillers Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton