



Harry Holliday

1893-1918

Harry was born in Earlsheaton on 11th April 1893 and baptised 23rd November 1893 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. His father was William Holliday, a Ginger Beer Maker and later a Carter born in Ravensthorpe in 1867 and died in 1934. His mother was Grace (nee Windle) born in Earlsheaton in 1869 and died in 1916. They were married at St. Peter's Church on 24th December 1887.

Their other children were; Lily, born in Earlsheaton in 1889, Robert Henry, born in Earlsheaton in 1891 and died in 1892, Minnie, born in Earlsheaton in 1895, May, born in Bridlington in 1898, William, born in Bridlington in 1900 and died in 1900, Robert, born in Bridlington in 1902 and Fred, born in Bridlington in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at High Street, Earlsheaton, and in 1901 and 1911 at 4, Boynton's Yard, Beck Hill, Bridlington.

In 1911 Harry was a Farm Labourer living with the Sawdon family in Langtoft near Drifffield. He was married on 29th January 1916 to Louisa Wakefield (born in Dewsbury in 1895 and died in 1962) at St. John the Baptist Church, Dawgreen, Dewsbury. They had a daughter, Annie Elizabeth, born in 1916.

He enlisted on 10th December 1915 and was mobilised on 15th July 1916, serving as Private 45997 in the 19th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. He was captured at Kemmel near Ypres on 25th April 1918. In the archives held by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, his name appears in the records of Friedrichsfeld POW Camp, 60 miles north of Cologne; it would seem that he was never actually incarcerated there as it was also a Postal Station for a large number of prisoners held elsewhere. He died of pleurisy as a Prisoner of War on 27th September 1918 and was initially buried with 17 others in Lierre (now Lier) German Cemetery, Belgium; in 1920 his remains were interred in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Antwerp lies 57 Km north of Brussels and 59 Km north east of Gent. Schoonselhof Cemetery itself is located in Wilrijk, a suburb of Antwerp. The Cemetery contains 101 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, some of which were brought in from other burial grounds in the area after the Armistice.

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 Earlsheaton Park War Memorial.

Some of his military and burial records spell his surname as *Holiday* and his headstone also had this spelling. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have updated these errors and in 2023 replaced the headstone.

In Memory of

Private

Harry Holliday

45997, 19th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 27 September 1918

Remembered with Honour

Schoonselhof Cemetery



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.