



## Arthur Gill 1895 – 1915

Arthur was born in Cleckheaton on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1895. His father was Daniel Gill, a wire drawer born in Cleckheaton in 1870 and died in 1928. His mother was Cecilia (nee Stuart) born in Huddersfield in 1873 and died in 1958. No birth record has been found for her. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1894.

Daniel was imprisoned on six occasions during the 1890's and 1900's for the offences against the poor rate, for failure to pay his rates and for neglect of his children.

Their other children were; Mary Stuart, born in 1894, Daniel, born in 1897 and died in 1897, John William, born in 1898 and was killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1918, Norman, born in 1901, George Stuart, born in 1903, Horace, born in 1905 and died in 1905, Winifred, born in 1906 and Marjorie Emma, born in 1909 and died in 1919.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 7, Union Street, Cleckheaton but in 1911 Cecilia was an inmate in Staincliffe Workhouse as were John, Norman, George, Winnifred (sic) and Marjorie (name recorded as *Margaret*). Mary was living in Heckmondwike with the family of her mother's brother John William Stuart and Arthur is a boarder in Heckmondwike with a family named Smithson. They all later moved to 33, Low Mills Lane, Ravensthorpe but Cecilia and Daniel were never reconciled.

Cecilia had two more children; Clarence Sutcliffe Gill, born in 1914 and Wilfred Sutcliffe Gill, born in 1917 and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War 2, he was lost at sea on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1942 when the Troopship S.S. "Ceramic" was torpedoed about 420 miles west-northwest of the Azores. Their births were registered under the surname of Gill but no father's name was given. It is stated on Wilfred's records at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that his father was named Harry Sutcliffe Gill. The publication of the 1921 Census shows Cecilia still living at 33, Low Mills Lane with Norman, George and Winnie and her two youngest sons but also recorded as a boarder is a Harry Sutcliffe age 45, an oil extractor in the employ of Sir Mark Oldroyd, Savile Town; it is almost certain that he was the father of Clarence and Wilfred. He was born in 1875 and died in 1951. In 1939 he is living at 20, Bank Street, Dewsbury whilst Cecilia is living at 4, High Street, Dewsbury working as a cleaner at a picture house.

Arthur was a single man who worked at Rawdon, Briggs and Company, Textile Manufacturers, Calder Road, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted in Leeds on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1915 into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) serving as Private 18317 and was sent to the Western Front on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1915. He died in the 17<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding, Lijssenthoek, Belgium on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1915 after suffering severe internal injuries caused by the collapse of a dug out. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery is located 12 Kms west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre, on a road connecting Ieper to Poperinge. The village was situated on the main communication line between the Allied military bases in the rear and the Ypres battlefields. Close to the Front, but out of the extreme range of most German field artillery, it became a natural place to establish casualty clearing stations. The Cemetery contains 9,901 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Arthur 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of

Private

**A Gill**

18317, 1st Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 21 December 1915 Age 20

Son of Cecilia Gill, of 33, Low Mills Lane, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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