



## **Herbert Overend**

### **1886-1919**

Herbert was born in Dewsbury on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1886 and baptised at St. Mark's Church, Halifax Road, Dewsbury on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1887. His father was John Blackburn Overend, a Blacksmith born in Earlsheaton in 1853 and died in 1925. His mother was Frances Davenport (nee Tolley) born in Broseley, Shropshire in 1855 and died in 1927. They were married at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1877.

Their other children were; Isaac, born in 1877 and William, born in 1878 and died in 1879.

On the Census Records for 1881 and 1891 the family lived at at 9, Tolson Street, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, in 1901 at 10, Tolson Street and in 1911 at 12, Tolson Street.

Herbert was educated at Carlton Road Council School and worked as a Leather Dyer in 1901, in 1911 he worked for Messrs Jas. Smith and Sons in Ravensthorpe as a Chintz Glazer, a textile mill worker who applied sizing or starch to the fabric to give it more body and a smooth surface. He was a first-class trombone player with the Batley Old Band, being awarded a medal. He was married on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1911 to Sarah Elizabeth Sykes (born in 1889 and died in 1961) at the Wesleyan Chapel in Batley. They had two sons, John Blackburn, born in 1913 and died in 1913 and Herbert, born in 1919 after his father's death. They lived at 15, Beacon Street, Ravensthorpe.

He enlisted pre-war on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1914 serving as Private 2528 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was mobilised on 14<sup>th</sup> August at the outbreak of hostilities. He was sent to the Western Front with the Service Number 6883 on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and returned home on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1916; he was treated for weakness and shortage of breath from 15<sup>th</sup> February 1917 but was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal 204743 on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1917 continuing to serve at home. He was discharged on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1918 suffering from pleurisy and was deemed to be no longer physically fit for duty. He was awarded a pension and Silver War Badge number 421626 and sent for treatment in a sanatorium. After three months there, he returned to his work at Jas. Smiths but relapsed and was taken to Deanhead Sanatorium at Horsforth where he died on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1919 from Tuberculous Peritonitis caused by war service. He was buried in Dewsbury Cemetery. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Herbert is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

He is one of twenty men named on the above but who are not recorded as official war casualties, due to their cause of death not being officially attributed to war service.