



## **Herbert Leslie Newsome**

### **1887 - 1917**

Herbert was born in Chickenley, Dewsbury on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1887. His father was Henry (Harry) Newsome, a Warehouseman for a Mungo Manufacturer born in Earlsheaton in 1860 and died in 1940. His mother was Mary Harriet (nee Blackburn) born in Middlestown near Wakefield in 1862 and died in 1932. They were married in 1883.

Their other children were; Benjamin Field, born in 1885 and served in World War 1, Percy, born in 1890 and died in 1890, Arnold, born in 1894 and died in 1896 and Leonard, born in 1899 and served in World War 1.

On the 1891 Census the family lived in Chickenley Lane, in 1901 at Short Street, Earlsheaton and in 1911 in Wilson's Mill Yard, Chickenley.

Herbert was educated at Chickenley Lane Council School and attended Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Sunday school. He was married to Clara Fearnside (born in 1887 and died in 1959) on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1911 at Wesley Street Methodist Chapel, Ossett. They had two children; Harvey, born in 1911 and died in 1914 and Mary, born in 1912. They lived at 17, Princess Street, Chickenley Lane, Chickenley. Herbert worked as a Rag Shaker in Mungo manufacturing alongside his father Harry at Wilson Brothers, Chickenley.

He enlisted in Dewsbury on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1915 serving as Gunner 104284 in the 248<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery; he was posted to "D" Army Reserve until 14<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He was sent to the Western Front on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1917 and was killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. He was originally buried in Bellewaarde Ridge Military Cemetery, Zonnebeke, but in July 1919 his remains were reburied in Birr Cross Roads Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Herbert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Birr Cross Roads Cemetery is located 3 Km east of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. Birr Cross Roads was named by the 1<sup>st</sup> Leinsters from their depot. The cemetery was begun in August 1917 and used as a Dressing Station cemetery until, and after, the German advance in 1918. At the Armistice, it contained nine irregular rows of graves, but was greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from certain smaller cemeteries. There are now 833 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 332 of the burials are unidentified, but there are special memorials to nine casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 18 casualties whose graves were destroyed by shell fire,

Herbert 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 and on the Roll of Honour in the now demolished St. Mary the Virgin Church, Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath and on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced).

In Memory of

Gunner

## Herbert Leslie Newsome

104284, 248th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 26 October 1917 Age 30

Son of Harry and Mary Harriet Newsome, of Chickenley; husband of Clara Newsome, of 17, Princess St., Chickenley Lane, Dewsbury, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

**Birr Cross Roads Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

