



George Herbert Hornsby 1881 - 1916

George was born on 30th March 1881 at Little Ribston near Wetherby, Yorkshire. His father was Henry Hornsby, a coal miner born in Little Ribston in 1860. His mother was Louisa Hornsby (née Shaw) born in Garforth in 1861. They were married on 10th August 1879 in Batley giving their ages as 23 and 22 respectively. They also had a daughter Elizabeth Ann, born in Little Ribston in 1880. No definitive death record has been traced for either parent.

On the 1881 Census Henry is living in Swillington near Leeds with the family of Louisa's brother John, whilst Louisa and George are living with the family of Henry's father at Little Ribston; on the 1891 Census Louisa and her children are living as boarders (surnames spelt *Hornsbury*) with the Weston Family in Norfolk Street, Batley; on the 1901 Census Louisa and her children are recorded under the name of Newsome living in the Burmantofts district of Leeds, the head of the household is recorded as *Jas E. Newsome* age 66. No trace of a second marriage has been found although there is a record of the death of a Louisa Newsome in 1910 age 47.

George worked as a teamer of horses and was married on 6th of June 1908 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury to Mary Ann Bailey (born in 1884 and died in 1963), they had three children; John, born in 1909, Evelyn, born in 1910 and died in 1924 and Walter Hirst, born in 1914. In 1911 George was living with his wife and children and a James Newsome age 53, recorded as his widowed stepfather at Holmfield Cottage, Tingley.

He enlisted in January 1915 serving as Private 240886 in the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with the previous Service Number 3672. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916 at Thiepval on a Salient known as the "Pope's Nose". He was buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval, Somme, France. George was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Thiepval is a village about 8 kilometres north of the town of Albert. On the 1st July 1916 the 36th (Ulster) Division were detailed to attack the German positions north of Thiepval, known as the Hansa Line and the Schwaben Redoubt. It would take until 26th September 1916 before the village finally fell. It then remained under Allied occupation until 25th March 1918, when it was lost during the great German offensive, but was retaken on the following 24th August. Mill Road Cemetery (called at one time Mill Road Cemetery No.2) was made during the spring of 1917. At the Armistice, it contained 260 burials, but was then greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Beaumont-Hamel and Thiepval and from smaller cemeteries. There are now 1,304 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 815 of the burials are unidentified. The headstones in Plot 1 were laid flat in the early 1950s because the site was subject to subsidence between the wars as a result of it being sited above the infamous Schwaben Redoubt.

George 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 Hanging Heaton War Memorial at St. Paul's Church and on the plaque inside the Church and on the Earlsheaton War Memorial in Earlsheaton Park. His name is also recorded in 'Urban District of Soothill Upper War Register and Records of War Service 1914-1920' a book compiled by The Rev. W.E. Cleworth, M.A. Cantab.

In Memory of

Private

George Herbert Hornsby

240886, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 September 1916 Age 35

Son-in-law of Paul Bailey, of 657, Shaw Cross, Leeds Rd., Dewsbury, Yorks; husband of Mary Ann Hornsby. Native of Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

