



Harry Denton

1893 – 1916

Harry was born in Thornhill on 28th April 1893. His father was George Denton, a glass bottle maker born in Thornhill in 1852 and died in 1907. His mother was Alice (née Taylor) born in Thornhill in 1853 and died in 1927. They were married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 23rd May 1874.

Their other children were; Taylor, born in 1873 and died in 1883, Fred, born in 1877, Florence, born in 1879, Evison, born in 1881, Hannah, born in 1884 and died in 1905, Mary, born in 1886 and died in 1920, Clara, born in 1888 and died in 1889, Martha, born in 1892, George, born in 1895 and died in 1896 and Horace, born in 1897.

On the 1901 Census the family were living at Greenhills, Thornhill Lees.

Alice was remarried at Dewsbury Register Office on 9th October 1909 to George Bradshaw, a widower born in 1857 and died in 1923, although there is no mention of him on the 1911 Census when the family were living at 23, Nursery Street, Thornhill Lees. They later lived at Crow Royd, Thornhill Lees and then Forrest Cottages, Thornhill Lees.

Harry was a single man who worked as a bye-worker in a colliery,

He enlisted on the outbreak of war serving as Private 3040 in the 5th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers and was sent to the Gallipoli Campaign in April 1915 and in October his Battalion were posted to Salonika. He died of malaria in Salonika on 7th September 1916 and was buried in Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

At the invitation of the Greek Prime Minister, M.Eleftherios Venizelos, Salonika (now Thessaloniki) was occupied by three French Divisions and the 10th (Irish) Division from Gallipoli in October 1915. Other French and Commonwealth forces landed during the year. In August 1916, a Greek revolution broke out at Salonika, with the result that the Greek national army came into the war on the Allied side. The town was the base of the British Salonika Force and it contained, from time to time, eighteen general and stationary hospitals. Three of these hospitals were Canadian, although there were no other Canadian units in the force. The earliest Commonwealth burials took place in the local Protestant and Roman Catholic cemeteries. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery (formerly known as the Anglo-French Military Cemetery) was begun in November 1915 and Commonwealth, French, Serbian, Italian and Russian sections were formed. The Commonwealth section remained in use until October 1918, After the Armistice, some graves were brought in from other cemeteries in Macedonia, Albania and from Scala Cemetery, near Cassivita, on the island of Thasos. There are now 1,648 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery.

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 Thornhill War Memorial in St. Michael and All Angels Church and in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918.

In Memory of

Private

Harry Denton

3040, 5th Bn., Connaught Rangers who died on 07 September 1916 Age 24

Son of Alice Bradshaw (formerly Denton), of 196, Forrest Cottages, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, Yorks, and the late George Denton.

Remembered with Honour

Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery



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



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the British War Graves Website of Michael McCann.