



## **Horace Wright Davies Oldroyd**

### **1897 – 1916**

Horace was born in Ravensthorpe on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1897 and baptised in St. Saviour's Church on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1897. His father was Fred Oldroyd, a mill hand born in Hopton, Mirfield in 1871 and died in 1938. His mother was Elizabeth (née Peace) born in Hopton in 1874 and died in 1900. They were married at St. Paul's Church, Eastthorpe, Mirfield on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1895.

They also had two daughters, Elsie, born in 1896 and died in 1918 and Catherine, born in 1899.

On the 1901 census Fred was living with his brother-in-law Sam Peace at Fox Street, Ravensthorpe, whilst Horace was at Garden Street, Ravensthorpe at the home of his aunt and uncle, Horace and Sarah Elizabeth Wilson. Elsie and Catherine were with their grandparents Samuel and Ann Oldroyd at 49, Garden Terrace, Ravensthorpe.

Fred was remarried on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1905 at Holy Trinity Church, Ossett to Fanny Sugden (born in 1883 and died in 1921) but the children remained with their relatives. On the 1911 Census all three were recorded as living with their grandmother Ann and their aunt, Louisa Oldroyd at 49, Garden Terrace. Horace was working as an office boy, but at the time of his enlistment, he was working as a cloth finisher with Marshall, Kaye, and Marshall. He attended St. Saviour's Church and was a member of the bible class.

He enlisted on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1915, despite being under age and was sent to the Western Front in January 1916 serving as Private 23457 in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment His Division were posted to the Dickebusch area of the Ypres Salient and on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1916. He was killed in action in an area known as "The Bluff" whilst moving up to the front line carrying bombs. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Horace was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and who have no known grave.

Horace is also commemorated as *Horace W.D. Oldroyd* 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

## Horace Wright Davies Oldroyd

23457, 7th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 14 February 1916

Remembered with Honour  
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

OLDROYD H. W. D.