



Harry Johnson

1896-1918

Harry was born in Earlsheaton in 1896. His father was Arthur Johnson, a glass bottle maker born in Thornhill Lees in 1867 and died in 1927. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Lee) born in 1867 and died in 1898. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton in 1888.

Their other children were; George, born in 1889 and died in 1891, Percy, born in 1890 and was killed in action on 27th November 1917, Willie, born in 1892, Hilda, born in 1894 and died in 1897 and Elizabeth, born in 1898.

On the 1891 Census the family lived with Elizabeth's father John Lee at Church Hill, Earlsheaton.

Arthur was remarried to Sarah Ann Ramsden (born in 1864 and died in 1936) at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 12th March 1900; they had a daughter Hilda, born in 1902.

On the 1901 Census they lived at 82, Navigation Street, Thornhill Lees, in 1911 at 11, Bank Road, Thornhill Lees and later at 12, Cardigan Road, Thornhill Lees.

Harry was a single man who attended Thornhill Lees Church of England School and worked as miner at Ingham's Pit, Thornhill Lees.

He enlisted on 7th September 1914, serving as Private 17867 in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but was almost immediately transferred into the Royal Marine Light Infantry serving as Private LY/19 (S) in the 2nd Royal Marine Battalion of the Royal Naval Division. Before arriving on the Western Front he had served at Gallipoli, Egypt and Mesopotamia. He was killed in action in France on 27th March 1918 during the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Harry is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Thornhill Lees Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial Plaque relocated to Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

In Memory of

Private

Harry Johnson

LY/19 (S), 2nd R.M. Bn. R.N. Div., Royal Marine Light Infantry who died on 27 March 1918

Remembered with Honour

Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

JOHNSON H.