



Raymond Holdsworth

1898 - 1917

Raymond was born in Batley Carr in 1898. His father was Harrison Holdsworth, a glass bottle maker and later a railway porter born in Whitley in 1864 and died in 1927. His mother was Emma (nee Gillings) born in Thornhill Lees in 1864 and died in 1901. They were married in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 22nd August 1885.

Their other children were; Annie, born in 1885, Harry, born in 1887, William, born in 1892 and Aquila, born in 1894.

On the 1891 Census they lived at Navigation Street, Thornhill Lees, in 1901 at 97, Mill Road, Batley Carr, in 1911 at 99, Mill Road and later at 12, William Street, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

Raymond was a single man who was educated at Batley Carr Church School and was actively connected with the Dewsbury Spiritualist Church in Bond Street. Like his father, he worked as a goods porter with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at Dewsbury Market Place Station.

He enlisted in June 1916 into the 2nd/4th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 47429 and was sent to the Western Front in October 1917. He was killed in action on 20th November 1917 during the First Day of the Battle of Cambrai, close to the villages of Hermies and Havrincourt. He was buried in Havrincourt Wood British Cemetery, about 1 kilometre South-West of Havrincourt village. In December 1920 he was one of 70 men who were reburied in Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Raymond was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Hermies is a town in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, approximately 3.5 kilometres south of the road from Bapaume to Cambrai. Hermies was seized on the morning of 9th April 1917, by a surprise attack of the 2nd and 3rd Australian Infantry Battalions. It was held against the advancing Germans on the 22nd March 1918 by the 17th Division, but evacuated on the following day; it was retaken in September 1918. Hermies Hill British Cemetery was begun in November 1917 and carried on by fighting units until March 1918. Further graves were added in the following September and after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from a wide area round Hermies and from certain smaller cemeteries. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 300 are unidentified.

Raymond 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 Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Spiritualist Church.

In Memory of

Private

R Holdsworth

47429, 2nd/4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 20 November 1917

Remembered with Honour

Hermies Hill British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.