



Harold Wilby

1897 - 1916

Harold was born at 201, Edge Road, Thornhill on 15th July 1897 and baptised at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill on 28th August 1897. His father was William Wilby, a miner born at Thornhill Edge in 1861 and died in 1933. His mother was Mary (née Baxter) born in Thornhill in 1863 and died in 1942. They were married at St. Michael and All Angels Church on 6th March 1886.

Their other children, all born at Edge Road were; George Henry, born in 1887, Annie, born in 1888, Alfred, born in 1890 and died in 1897, Alice born in 1893, Norah, born in 1895, Ernest, born in 1900, Leonard, born in 1902, Gladys, born in 1903 and Dorothy, born in 1906 and died in 1906.

On the 1891 and 1901 Census Records the family lived Edge Road, Thornhill, in 1911 at 10, Beatson Street, Thornhill Lees and later at 1, Nursery Street, Thornhill Lees.

Harold was a single man who was educated at Thornhill Lees Parish School and was connected with Thornhill Lees Parish Church and Institute. He worked as a beamer* at Wormald and Walker's Blanket Mill in Thornhill. (*a beamer was a worker responsible for tying the warp threads onto a huge beam at the back of a loom). He later became attached to Dewsbury Spiritualist Church.

He enlisted in Pontefract on 1st June 1916 serving as Private 8/27346 in the 8th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers and then the 1st/4th Battalion serving as Private 5063. He was sent to the Western Front on 11th September 1916 and was killed in action on 28th October 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. In 1920 his remains were discovered and he is now buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Warlencourt British Cemetery lies to the south-east of Warlencourt village on the east side of road between Albert and Bapaume. The cemetery was made late in 1919 when graves were brought in from small cemeteries and the battlefields of Warlencourt and Le Sars. The cemetery now contains 3,505 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 1,823 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 55 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Harold 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 War Memorial in Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees and on the Memorial Plaque in Dewsbury Spiritualist Church.

In Memory of
Private
H Wilby

5063, 1st/4th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 28 October 1916

Remembered with Honour
Warlencourt British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

