



## Herbert Richardson Greenwood

### 1896 – 1915

Herbert was born in Batley in 1896. His father was William Albert Greenwood, a Fruiterer and later a Van Man for a dyers and dry cleaners born in Dewsbury in 1866 and died in 1935. His mother was Elizabeth Hannah (nee Richardson) born in Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham in 1874 and died in 1928. They were married in 1888.

Their other children were; Emily Mary, born in 1889, Lucy Ann, born in 1891, William Albert, born in 1893, and Joseph, born in 1899.

According to the 1901 census, the family lived at Town Street, Batley and in 1911 at 113, Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe.

Herbert was a single man who was educated at Warwick Road School, Batley Carr and later at St. Saviour's Boys' School; he was attached to the United Methodist Sunday School in Ravensthorpe, where he was a teacher. In 1911 he was working as a Woollen Twister in a textile mill. The local newspaper report at the time of his death states that he was an Under-Tuner, working for Messrs Henry Hamer and Sons.

He was a pre-war Territorial, enlisting in June 1914 and volunteered for overseas service. He served in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with the Service Number 3365, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and was sent to the Western Front on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1915. He was killed in action near Ypres on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1915 and was buried in Talana Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

According to the local newspaper report of his death, one of his comrades, Corporal J Clarkson, also of Ravensthorpe, wrote to his parents; *"Bert got killed on Wednesday night about 11pm. He was hit on the head with a bullet and died instantaneously, suffering no pain. I had only just left him when some men brought a fresh supply of bombs and as he was in charge he had to attend to them. He put the boxes in the dugout and must have stood out unconsciously with his head too high above the firing parapet"*.

Talana Farm was one of a group of farm houses named by the army from episodes of the South African war. From Ieper (Ypres) the Cemetery is located on the road in the direction of Boezinge. The cemetery was begun by French troops in April 1915, then taken over by the 1<sup>st</sup> Rifle Brigade and 1<sup>st</sup> Somerset Light Infantry in June 1915, and was used by fighting units until March 1918. There are now 529 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 14 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to six casualties whose graves in the cemetery could not be located and ten who are identified as a group, but not individually. It is probable that the cemetery contained other graves later destroyed by shell fire.

Herbert 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 Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church and on the War Memorial in Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church.

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal

## Herbert Richardson Greenwood

3365, 1st/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 22 December 1915 Age 19

Son of William Albert and Elizabeth Hannah Greenwood, of 113, Sackville St., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
Talana Farm Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

