



Harry Harris

1892 – 1916

Harry was born in Old Swinford, Worcestershire in 1892. His father was Joseph Harris, a Retort Builder born in Lye, Stourbridge, Worcestershire in 1864 and died in 1914. His mother was Lizzie (née Whitehouse) born in Old Swinford in 1867 and died in 1947. They were married in 1888.

Their other children were; Elsie, born in Old Swinford in 1888, Frances, born in Old Swinford in 1889, Frederick (I), born in Lye in 1893 and died in 1894, Joseph, born in Lye in 1895 and was killed in action 4th September 1918, Frederick (II), born in Lye in 1897 and died in 1898, Herbert, born in Lye in 1900, Ernest, born in Ravensthorpe in 1901 and Richard, born in Ravensthorpe in 1903.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Palace Row, Heath Lane, Old Swinford, in 1901 at 1, Albion Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe and later at 20, Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe.

Harry worked as a Piecer the woollen industry in 1911 and was connected to Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church; he played for the Ravensthorpe Albion football team. Before enlistment his employers were Robert Swire and Sons, woollen yarn spinners, carpet and rug yarn spinners and dyers in Ravensthorpe. He was already a serving soldier when he was married to Jane Abbot (born in Batley in 1891 and died in 1988) at All Saints Parish Church, Batley on 5th December 1915. They lived at Dark Lane, Batley. Jane was remarried in 1918 to John Flatley (born in 1896 and died in 1968). They had two children; William, born in 1919 and John, born in 1921.

He enlisted as Private 1605 in the 12th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in July 1915 and was subsequently transferred to the 6th Battalion East Lancashire Regiment as Private 22456. He was posted to Mesopotamia in May 1916. He died on 20th July 1916 from the effects of the heat and was buried in Basra War Cemetery, Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Basra War Cemetery now contains 2,560 burials of the First World War; in 1935 it was decided to remove all the headstones as the salty soil had caused them to substantially deteriorate. Instead, all the Commonwealth casualties were commemorated on a Memorial Screen Wall which was built in the same year. Because of the current political instability in Iraq, the cemetery is inaccessible. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a Roll of Honour commemorating all casualties buried and commemorated in Iraq at their Head Office in Maidenhead.

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

In Memory of

Private

H Harris

22456, 6th Bn., East Lancashire Regiment who died on 20 July 1916

Remembered with Honour

Basra War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission