



Herbert Wilkinson

1895 – 1915

Herbert was born in Dewsbury in 1895. His father was Leonard Wilkinson, a Spinner born in Elland in 1875 and died in 1916. His mother was Alice (nee Haythorne) born in Dewsbury in 1874 and died in 1920. They were married in 1895.

Their other children were; Amy, born in 1897, Lily, born in 1900 and Allan, born in 1906.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 7, Ernest Jones Street, Dewsbury, in 1911 at 10, Wormald Street, Dewsbury and in 1915 at 28, Marriott Street, off Battye Street, Dewsbury.

Alice was remarried in 1917 to Fred Bennett (born in Batley in 1862 and died in 1919 in an accident at Soothill Wood Colliery).

Herbert was a single man who in 1911 was a tobacconist's assistant. He was a former Bandmaster and Staff-Sergeant in the Dewsbury branch of the Boy's Brigade

He served as Private 3747 in the 1st/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. He was killed north of Ypres on 3rd December 1915 when he was hit by a shell fragment whilst returning from a fatigue party and died within an hour. He is buried in Duhallow A.D.S. Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Herbert was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station, believed to have been named after a southern Irish hunt, was a medical post 1.6 kilometres north of Ypres (now Ieper). The Cemetery was begun in July 1917 on the day of the Battle of Pilckem Ridge. The graves of October and November 1918 are due to deaths in the 11th, 36th and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations. After the Armistice, 633 bodies (of which 228 were not identified) were brought into this Cemetery from isolated graves and small Cemeteries on the battlefields North, East, and South of Ypres. There are now 1,544 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery, 231 of the burials unidentified.

Herbert is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library (see below) and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. Philip's Church, Leeds Road, Dewsbury now displayed in Dewsbury Minster and on the War Memorial on the outside wall of the Dewsbury Centenary Wesleyan Church at the top of Daisy Hill.

N.B. In the Dewsbury Roll of Honour compiled in 1923-24, there is a single entry for the name of Herbert Wilkinson as shown below.

Wilkinson Herbert.	28 Marriott Street, Dewsbury.	Pte. 1st Duke of Wellington's Reg. (W.R.)	Killed.	9.4.17.
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On the Dewsbury Cenotaph this name appears only once, and as our research had uncovered some inaccurate entries in the book, it was thought that this entry actually referred to a Herbert Wilkinson who served as Private 40049 in the York and Lancaster Regiment and was killed on 9th April 1917. In 2018 we were contacted by a gentleman whose father had survived the war although losing a leg and whose best friend was a Herbert Wilkinson of 28, Marriott Street who served as Private 3747 in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment; this man however, was killed on 3rd December 1915.

Our initial thoughts were that possibly both of the men bearing this name were put forward for commemoration and due to a clerical error were somehow combined into the one entry.

As it is unlikely that the reasons will ever be known for certain, we have decided to include both men in the lists of "The Fallen" on the Dewsbury Sacrifices Website.

