



Harold Armstrong **1893 -1916**

Harold was born in Dewsbury in 1893. His father was Robert Armstrong JP, a Drapery Owner born in Wragby, Lincolnshire in 1868 and died in 1941. His mother was Clara (née Wigglesworth) born in Cleckheaton in 1866 and died in 1948. They were married in the Centenary Wesleyan Church, Dewsbury on 3rd February 1891.

They had a daughter; Lilian, born in 1893.

On the 1901 and 1911 Census Records they lived above their business at 65, Daisy Hill, Westgate, Dewsbury and later at 10, Fairfield Terrace, West Park Street, Dewsbury.

Harold was a single man who was educated at Carlton Street Council School and then Wheelwright Grammar School Dewsbury. He was apprenticed to Messrs Pendlebury and Son who owned a large drapery business in Wigan, Lancashire, after which he moved to Messrs Shoolbread and Company in Tottenham Court Road, London and finally spent some time at the John Wanamaker Department Store in Philadelphia USA, one of the biggest drapery stores in the world, before returning to work in his father's business. He was connected with the Centenary Wesleyan Church and Sunday school.

He served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 28th Battalion, attached to the 1st/5th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, following service from June 1915 in the Yorkshire Dragoons 1st Battalion (Queen's Own) before receiving his commission. He was sent to the Western Front on 10th July 1916 and was killed in action during the final stages of the Battle of the Somme on 14th November 1916 near Warlencourt. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing 300 Commonwealth and 300 French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

Harold is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial outside the Centenary Wesleyan Church and on the Memorial Plaque in Wheelwright Grammar School to fallen pupils.

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant

Harold Armstrong

28th Bn. attd. 1st/5th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 14 November 1916

Son of Robert and Clara Armstrong, of 10, Fairfield Terrace, West Park St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

ARMSTRONG H.