



## **Clifford Haley**

### **1898 - 1917**

Clifford was born in Gomersal, Yorkshire in 1898. His father was Charles Haley, a leather currier born in Cleckheaton in 1858 and died in 1929. His mother was Nancy (nee Wright) born in Gomersal in 1858 and died in 1924. They were married in St. Peter's Church, Birstall in 1877.

Their other children were; Ada, born in 1878, Haydn, born in 1880 and served in World War 1, Harold, born in 1883, Laura, born in 1895, Edith Annie, born in 1887, George, born in 1890 and William, born in 1893 and died in 1902.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at Lower Spen, Gomersal and in 1911 at 65, Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe.

Clifford was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Boys School and attended the Ravensthorpe Congregational Church and Sunday school. He worked at Hartley Brothers, Curriers in Ravensthorpe along with his father who was also the Conductor of the Dewsbury Borough Brass Band, in which Clifford played the cornet.

He enlisted on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1917 in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry serving as Private 36251 and was sent to the Western Front on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1917 to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion who were ordered to occupy the front line south-east of Polygon Wood, as part of the Battle of Passchendaele. The Battalion Diary records that "conditions were atrocious, the position consisted mainly of shell holes, but some much damaged trenches were also used. He was killed in action on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917, it was raining and Corporal N. Murray had made way for Clifford in "*...a little shelter in the trench...when a shell burst on the top...*" the explosion caused Murray, Clifford and another soldier to be buried. Whilst the former survived, he found the other two had been killed. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Clifford was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Clifford's family received letters from Corporal Murray and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Taylor, the Company Commander expressing sympathy for their bereavement.

The Tyne Cot Memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and whose graves are not known. The memorial stands close to the farthest point in Belgium reached by Commonwealth forces in the First World War until the final advance to victory.

Clifford is also 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.

In Memory of

Private

**Clifford Haley**

36251, 6th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 13 October 1917

Remembered with Honour

**Tyne Cot Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

