



## Harold Lyles

### 1898-1918

Harold was born in Dewsbury on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1898. His father was Fred Lyles, a teamer born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1910. His mother was Susan Armitage (nee Ledger) born in Batley in 1874 and died in 1930. They were married on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1894 at All Saints Church, Batley.

Their other children were: Arthur Edwin, born in 1895 and served in World War 1, Ivy, born in 1903, Gilbert, born in 1907 and Alice, born in 1910.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 3, Cullingworth Street, Staincliffe, in 1911 at 4, Providence Street, Batley and later at 61, High Street, Westtown, Dewsbury.

Susan was remarried on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1911 to Percival Redfearn, a widower aged 56 at St Thomas's Church, Batley; he died in 1924. She was remarried again later that same year to Ralph Sandiford, a widower aged 58; he died in 1927.

Harold was a single man who attended Boothroyd Lane Council School and upon moving to Batley attended Park Road Day Schools and Zion Sunday school. He was apprenticed to Mr. Percy Sykes, a Confectioner in Batley and later worked at Messrs Kilner Brothers, Glass Bottle Manufacturers in Thornhill Lees.

He served as Private 351270 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry, enlisting in January 1917 and was sent to the Western Front in February 1918. He was killed in action in France on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918, the First Day of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). In January 1921 his remains were discovered and moved to Morchies Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Morchies is a village 8 Kms north-east of Bapaume. Morchies Military Cemetery contains the graves of 163 casualties of the First World War, 74 of which are unidentified and special memorials are erected to eight soldiers from the United Kingdom who are known to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of nine soldiers from the United Kingdom and one sailor of the Royal Naval Division, buried by the enemy at Morchies, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

Harold 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 Batley War Memorial.

In Memory of

Private

**H Lyles**

351270, 2nd Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 21 March 1918

Son of Mrs. S. Sandiford, of 10, Mill St., Birstall, Leeds.

Remembered with Honour  
**Morchies Military Cemetery**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Tony Emptage.