



Henry (Harry) Howgate

1893 - 1916

Henry, known locally as Harry, was born in Dewsbury on 29th April 1893. His father was John Henry Howgate, a coal miner born in Dewsbury in 1868 and died in 1918. His mother was Sarah Ann (née Winter) born in Barnsley in 1869 and died in 1914. They were married on 15th October 1888 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor.

Their other children were; John, born in 1889 and was killed in action 21st May 1918, James, born 1891 and died in 1893, Willie, born in 1896 and served in World War 1; he was a Prisoner-of-War from 28th March 1918 and was repatriated 24th December 1918.

On the 1891 Census the family were living at 15, Middle Road, Westtown, in 1901 at 1, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury and in 1911 at 42, Junction Road, Westtown.

Harry was a single man who worked as an out-porter at the Great Northern Railway Station on Longcauseway in Dewsbury. He also played for Dewsbury Celtic NRU Football Club.

He served as Private 20719 Harry Howgate in the 2nd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and was sent to the Western Front on 14th October 1915. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 3rd September 1916 along with 105 other men from his battalion in an engagement known as the Battle of Guillemont, when Falfemont Farm, Leuze Wood and Guillemont village were captured in an advance of 4,500 yd (4,100 m) on a 2,000 yd (1,800 m) front, which eliminated the salient at Delville Wood and exposed Ginchy to attack from the south. He was buried in the field and in 1920 his remains were discovered and he was reburied in Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme. Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Longueval is a village 11 kilometres east of Albert. Delville Wood Cemetery is east of the village and on the south side of the road from Longueval to Ginchy. Delville Wood Cemetery was made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from a few small cemeteries and isolated sites, and from the battlefields. Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916. There are now 5,523 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery. 3,593 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 27 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Sadly, Harry's father John Henry Howgate took his own life by drowning in July 1918. The coroner's hearing ruled that he was of unsound mind at the time.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library (as Henry Howgate) and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Private

H Howgate

20719, 2nd Bn., King's Own Scottish Borderers who died on 03 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

