

## Harry Leonard Hourd 1899-1918

Harry was born Harry Stevenson in Hickling in 1900 and was the son of Agnes Winifred Stevenson. Agnes and her mother Caroline were laundresses. Caroline was the widow of John Stevenson who was a blacksmith.

In 1906 Agnes married Robert Hourd and moved to Upper Broughton to live in the Hourd family house in Well Lane. In the 1901 census Robert was an ironstone labourer. He and Agnes had two daughters, Norah (born in 1908) and Dorothy May (born in 1910). Robert died in 1911.

Agnes died in 1916 and in August of 1917 Harry Leonard Hourd enlisted in London and went out to France in June 1918. He was a Private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, his service number was 57712.

In Memory of  
Private  
**H L Hourd**

57712, 2nd Bn., Worcestershire Regiment who died on 24 September 1918 Age 19

Son of the late Robert and Agnes Winifred Hourd, of Nottingham.

Remembered with Honour  
**Five Points Cemetery, Lechelle**



He died of wounds on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. A letter written by the chaplain to his sister (who could not have been more than ten years old) said 'I am afraid that nothing I can say will lighten your great sorrow, but I pray that our great Father in Heaven will comfort and console you and yours. I am sure that he has followed Lord



Jesus Christ along the way of the Cross and will find the Master on the other side and will hear the words 'Well done, good and faithful servant'. May the knowledge that he still lives in Christ comfort you. I buried him today at 2pm in the British Soldiers Cemetery here, where he lies with the other gallant boys'

Five Points Cemetery in Lechelle is a beautiful place

Prior to enlisting Harry was engaged as a footman to the famous French dancer Gaby Deslys. Gaby, born in 1881 was a danseuse, singer, and actress of the early 20th century from Marseilles, France.



4351 L. ROTARY PHOTO, E.C. MISS GABY DESLYS. PHOTOGRAPH BY FREDERICK H. W. BENTLEY LTD. 40, QUEEN VICTORIA ST. LONDON, W.1.

She selected her name for her stage career. It is an abbreviation of *Gabrielle of the Lillies*. During the 1910s she was exceedingly popular worldwide, making \$4,000 a week in the United States alone. During the 1910s she performed several times on Broadway, at the Winter Garden Theatre, and performed in a show with a young Al Jolson.

Renowned for her beauty she was courted by several wealthy gentlemen including King Manuel II of Portugal. She eventually made the leap to silent films, making her only US film *Her Triumph* with Famous Players-Lasky in 1915. She would make a handful of films in France before her death. In 1919 she contracted "Spanish" influenza and underwent several operations trying to cure a throat infection caused by the disease. She died from complications of her infection in Paris in 1920, at the age of 38.

# Family Tree

