Harry Ackroyd





Rank: - Private

Number: - 235317

Regiment: - Lincolnshire Regiment (Formerly 205221 Duke of Wellington's Regiment) 2/4th Battalion

Shot by a sniper: - 26th September 1917 aged 31 years

Memorial: -Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 35 to 37 and 162 to 162A

Batley News, 13 Oct 1917, 20 Oct 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in Batley on 4th May 1886 the eldest son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Ackroyd (nee Roberts) who had married on the 23rd February 1884 at St. Paul's, Hanging Heaton. He was baptised on the 22nd September 1886.

In 1901 he was living with his family at West Street, off Lady Ann Road, Soothill, Batley. His siblings were William 1888, George Roberts 1890, Mary 1892, Albert 1895, Amy 1898 and Alec 1900. His father was employed as a cloth finisher and Harry and his brother William were also working in the mills.

Before 1911 the family had moved to a five roomed home at 28, Oakdene, Soothill Lane, Batley and both father and son Harry, were employed as a cloth finishers. John was born in 1903 and the census also shows that two children had died in infancy. Annie born 1908 would have been one of them.

Before he enlisted Harry was employed as a finisher at Greenhill Mills (Messrs. Wrigley and Parker) a old boy of Mill Lane Council School and a well known member of Soothill Working Men's Club. He formerly played cricket for Soothill and took part in junior football.

Service Details

Harry enlisted in April 1916 and went to France in July/ August 1917. The 2/4th Battalion was part of 177th Brigade in 59th (2nd North Midland) Division.

The Division received orders to move in late August and thence by train from Acheux to Winnezeele, arriving 1st September. They took part in the Battle of Menin Road Ridge 23rd-25th September and the Battle of Polygon Wood 26th - 30th September. Harry was killed on the first day of this battle having been in France for two months.

His parents received a letter from an officer saying: -

"I regret to tell you that your son was killed in the big push on September 26th. He was struck by the splinter of a shell. I have known him ever since he joined the Battalion and I am most sorry to lose him and the many other brave fellows who have also laid down their lives. I send my most sincere sympathy to you"

Two of his brothers were in the Forces one in France and one in Salonika.

Harry was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Luke's Church, Soothill Congregational Church, Soothill Working Men's Club, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Batley War Memorial and Tyne Cot Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group