Harry Armitage





Rank: - Private

Number: - 35220

Regiment: - East Yorkshire Regiment 7th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 18/09/1918 Age: 29 years

Cemetery: - Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France 11.G.6

Batley News, 19 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born on the 10th March 1889 at Ravensthorpe and was baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on the 20th April 1889 the son of Joseph and Martha Armitage nee Coulson who lived at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe. Joseph, who worked as a blanket raiser, came from Crossland Moor, Huddersfield whilst his wife was born in Atherton and they had married at Dewsbury Parish Church on the 26th July 1879. Annie Elizabeth was born in 1880-1880 followed by Amy 1881, Clara 1883, Albert 1887, Harry, Florence 1891, Gilbert 1893-1908, Esther 1895, Ernest 1897, Arthur 1898.

Before 1901 the family had moved from Ravensthorpe to live at 50, Primrose Hill, Batley moving again to live at 16, Warwick Mount before 1911. The 1911 census shows that the couple had 12 children born alive but 7 had died in infancy. Harry attended Park Road School and afterwards was employed by Messrs. J. Fenton and Sons, Batley Carr as a blanket raiser.

On the 5th November 1910 he married Martha Holmes Preston at Batley Parish Church and went to live with her mother and brother Willie Holmes Preston at Ivy Dene Cottage, Batley Field Hill. Esther was born in 1911 at Grimethorpe where Harry was a bye worker at a coal miner but sadly died aged 7 months in September 1911. Clara was born in 1912 and Ronald in 1916.

The family lived at 16, Warwick Mount with his parents but later at 4, Warwick Mount, Batley before he enlisted.

His mother, Martha, died in April 1918 and his brother-in-law Willie Holmes Preston was killed in action on the 5th July 1917.

Service Details

Harry was in the local Territorial's before the war and he enlisted in January 1915 in the Royal Field Artillery but was discharged on the 7th April after just 77 days. He re-enlisted on the 4th December 1915 at Rugeley. He was transferred to the East Yorkshire Regiment on the 29th November 1916.

His records state he was about 5ft 6 inches tall with a sallow complexion, blue eyes, dark brown hair and his religion was Roman Catholic. From the 8th

December he was on leave from France but was admitted to Southern General Hospital, Birmingham on the 21st December because he had trench fever.

Harry returned to France in 1918 the 7th Battalion fought at: -

The Battle of St Quentin
The Battle of Bapaume
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918
The Battle of Amiens (8-11 August)
The Battle of Albert (21-23 August)
The Battle of Bapaume (31 Aug- 3 Sept)
which were phases of the Second Battles of the Somme 1918
The Battle of Havrincourt (12 Sept)
The Battle of Epehy (18 Sept)
which were phases of the Battles of the Hindenburg Line

Harry was killed in action during this battle of Epehy and was given the sacrament for the last time before he went into the battle by a chaplain. He had been wounded once and had twice been in hospital with trench fever.

His brother Albert was in France with the Duke of Wellington's and Signaller Ernest was also on the Western Front.

Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group