Joseph Henry Bailey





Rank: - Private

Number: - 3597

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt) 1/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 4th July 1916 aged 29

Cemetery: - Connaught Cemetery, Thiepval, Somme, France. V1.A.2

"HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THY WILL BE DONE"

Batley News, 15 Jul 1916 (photo), 7 Oct 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Joseph Henry was born in Soothill on 5th December 1887 the son of Paul Hirst and Sarah Ellen Bailey (nee Hanson). He was baptised at St. Paul's Hanging Heaton on 22nd January 1888. Paul was a coal miner. He was a local lad from Chidswell whilst Sarah came from Horsforth. In 1901the family lived in High Street, Hanging Heaton. By 1911 Paul and Sarah had moved to Chidswell with their twins aged 11 years and the census shows in their 26 years of marriage, they had eight children of which four were still alive. Mary Ann (1884), Joseph Henry (1887), John (1890), Walter Hirst (1901), Evelyn (1901)

On 19th March 1910 Joseph Henry married Mary Turner. Alice was born later the same year but sadly died. Harry was born in 1912 followed by another child.

He was a well-known member of Hanging Heaton cricket team and was associated with St. Paul's Church and Ebenezer football teams. He was also a member of the Parish Church young Men's Bible Class and was in the Hanging Heaton Rechabites. He had worked at Crigglestone Colliery after working at Shaw Cross pit. He was also a lime-light operator at Dewsbury Empire Theatre.

Service Details

Joseph Henry enlisted in December 1914 and went to France on 25th December 1915. The 1/5th Battalion was part of 147th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division at this time.

He was slightly wounded in the foot but returned to duty.

In July 1916 a report was received from Thiepval Wood by his parents to say that he was returning from eight hours hard duty as a stretcher bearer and was about to go into a dug out for breakfast when he was hit by a bomb and died instantly.

A brother- in- law Private Herbert Hornsby of the same regiment was present at his interment.

"It is a great blow I have to inflict on you in conveying the news that your husband was killed the day before yesterday, (4th July)."

In letter to the deceased's widow an officer says: -

"Death was instantaneous so he did not suffer. Previous to his death he was ---- in a most praiseworthy manner carrying wounded. I trust the blow will be lessened for you in the knowledge that he died doing his duty."

He died at Thiepval Wood and was awarded a Card of Gallantry.

Joseph Henry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, Card of Gallantry, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Ebenezer Chapel, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Connaught Cemetery and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group