Harry Bakes



Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 113544

Regiment: - Royal Garrison Artillery 194th Siege Battery

Killed in Action: - 03/09/1917 Age: 27 years

Cemetery: - Talana Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 111.J.19

"AT REST"

Batley News, 15 Sep 1917

Family Details

Harry was born in Cleckheaton on the 15th February 1890 the son of Ward and Sarah Bakes nee Costas who had married on the 12th April 1879 at St. Peters Church, Bradford. He was baptised at Whitechapel, Cleckheaton on the 11th July 1890 when his father's occupation was given as a painter and the family lived at Clifton. He had an older sister Sarah Jane born 1882. Joseph was born in 1879 followed by Joseph Herbert 1881 and Haman 1884 died aged 11 months in 1885 but all died in infancy.

In 1901 and 1911 he was living with his family at Hartshead Moor and when the 1911 census was taken, he was working as a butcher on his own account whilst his father was still a house painter. In 1910 he worked in a shop owned by his father at Hipperholme. Harry had served his apprenticeship with Mr. Christian Roger of Northgate, Cleckheaton later working for a time in Leeds.On the 26th April 1913 he married Helen Rhead Peters at the Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Bernard, Nr Halifax. Kathleen was born in Clifton in March 1915. The family moved to live in Cross Bank, Batley. A Batley News report states that he worked for the Batley Co-operative Society in the butchering department for around two years before he enlisted and was well known in the town. The family resided at 4, Back Crescent Street, Cross Bank, Batley.

Service Details

Harry re-joined from the "B" Reserves on the 8th August 1916 and he joined the British Expeditionary Force on the 30th November 1916 in France.

He was killed by the bursting of an enemy shell whilst resting in a dug-out with three friends on the 3rd September 1917. Two were killed and two were injured. Harry was one of those killed. His personal effects which consisted of a purse, photos, cards, letters, aluminium ring and a canvas letter case was sent to his wife.

Harry was awarded the British War medal, the Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Hartshead Moor Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group