Harold Berry



Rank: - Private

Number: - 16617

Regiment: - Coldstream Guards 1st Battalion

Killed in Action: - 04/03/1917 Age: 22 years

Cemetery: - Sailly-Saillisel British Cemetery, Somme, France 1.G.3

"THE FRAGRANCE OF HIS LIFE SO SWEET"

Batley News, 31 Mar 1917

Family Details

Harold was born in Ripponden on 19th October 1893 the son of Leonard and Alice Mary Berry nee Waddington, who had married on the 28th June 1884 at St. John the Baptist Church, Halifax. Harold was baptised at St. Bartholomew's Church, Ripponden on the 18th July 1894 when his father gave the address as Soyland and his occupation was a warper.

In 1901 the family was living at 19, Chapel Terrace, Soyland and his elder brother Lewis 1884 was employed as a cotton spinner, Harold was a scholar and in the household was also his siblings Florence Mary 1895 and Arthur 1897.Within the next decade the family had moved to live in a four roomed home at 106, Unity Terrace, Ripponden and Harold was employed as a cotton piecer.

Harold was not content working in the mills and joined the West Riding Police Force and became a member of the Batley Constabulary in early 1914 and lodged with Mr. Sam Hargreaves of 3, Belvedere Street, Mount Pleasant.

Service Details

His service details have not survived but the Batley News states he enlisted immediately at the outbreak of war but he could not have served abroad before 1916 because he was not awarded the 1914-15 Star.

The 1st Battalion had gone to France in August 1914 and from the 25th August 1915 was part of 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division.

Sam Hargreaves received a letter from his parents informing him that Harold had been killed.

"We are sorry to inform you that Harold was killed in action on March 4th. It came as a sudden shock to us, but we thought it our duty to write to you, as Harold always respected you while staying with you at Batley. Harold has laid down his life whilst serving King and Country."

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group