Daniel Bree



Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 174508

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery 2nd/1st (Shropshire) Bty. 158th Army Bde.

Killed in Action: - 30/11/1917 Age: 30 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 4 to 6 and 162.

Batley News, 5 Jan 1918. Batley Reporter, 11 Jan 1918

Family Details

Daniel was born in Wakefield in October 1885 the son of Dennis and Maria Bree (nee Richardson) who had married in Wakefield in 1877. Dennis came from Sligo, Ireland and Maria from West Bretton, Yorkshire.

Richard Dennis had been born in 1879 followed by Kate 1881, Patrick 1883, Daniel and Peter 1888. In 1891 the family was living at 5, Connor's Buildings, Wakefield. They continued to live at this address and in 1901 Dennis was a labourer at a soap works and 15-year-old Daniel was employed as a billiard marker. Maria died in the early part of 1902.

In 1911 Daniel was a boarder at 74, Tempest Road, Beeston Hill. Leeds and was employed as a manager at a billiard room.

Dan later moved to Batley and had been the manager of Riley's Billiard Hall, Hick Lane, Batley, since it opened until he enlisted.

He had played several times in the Yorkshire Championship tournament and on one occasion reached the final.

He married Annie Blackburn in the Holbeck area of Leeds in 1911 and Margaret was born later that year followed by Annie in 1913 and Kathleen in 1914.

He later lived at 15, Oaks Road, Soothill, Batley with his wife and family.

Service Details

Daniel enlisted about August 1916 and his wife returned to live in Dewsbury Road, Leeds with her daughters.

The Shropshire Royal Horse Artillery was part of the Territorial Force set up in 1908. It was made up from 1st Shropshire Volunteers, Royal Garrison Artillery and Staffordshire Artillery Volunteers

The Shropshire RHA was the only new RHA Battery to predate the Territorial Force. It was allocated to the Welsh Border Mounted Brigade and was equipped with 4 x15 pounder guns.

Territorial Units were intended for home defence and often had older weapons and equipment than Regular Army units.

On the outbreak of war most territorial units formed a first line and second line force. The 2/1st Shropshire (Reserve) Battery RHA and the 2/1st Shropshire Bty RHA was part of 2/1st Welsh Border Mounted Division and attached to 63rd (2nd Northumberland) Division in January 1915.On 13th April 2/1st Shropshire RHA along with 2/1st Berkshire RHA joined CLV111 Brigade RFA at Heytesbury, Wiltshire and was re-equipped with 18 pounder guns. This unit was in France from 24th May 1917 as an Army Field Brigade.

The battery was re-designated as A/CLV111 Battery on July 6th 1917 and this was its title until the Armistice on 11th November 1918.

Daniel is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group