Harold Driver



Rank: - Private

Number: - 202765

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th Battalion (previously 2162)

Killed in Action: - 22nd September 1918 aged 20 years

Memorial: - Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France Panel 8

Family Details

Harold was born in Batley Carr in c1898 the son of Walter and Clara Driver (nee Rodley). The couple had married at Holy Innocents, Thornhill Lees on 15th October 1885. Mary Ellen was born in Thornhill Lees in 1886 followed by James Arthur 1888 and Charles Edward in 1891. The family moved to Batley Carr before the birth of Harold which is where his mother was also born. Walter came from Suffolk.

In 1901 the family was living at 50, Victoria Street, Batley Carr and in 1911 the census shows that 13-year-old Harold was employed as a bobbin maker living at 46, Victoria Street, Batley Carr in a three roomed home.

Service Details

Harold's service details have not survived and we have not found an obituary in local papers. We do however know he did not serve abroad before 1916.

In 1916 the 1/4th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry fought at the Battle of Albert (1st -13th July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17 July)
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge (23 July-3 September)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September
phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

In 1917 they took part in: -
Operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush). *A battle that never took place. Plans were made for an audacious British attack against the German-held coast of Belgium; a force was assembled and specialist training began. But necessary advance from Ypres (in 'Third Ypres', below) did not materialise and Hush was inevitably cancelled. A sharp German attack against British preparations in the Battle of the Dunes (Operation Strandfest) also disrupted matters.*

The Battle of Poelcapelle (9 October)
the battle is a phase of the Third Battles of the Ypres

In 1918
The Battle of Estaires (9-11 April)
The Battle of Messines (10-11 April)
The Battle of Bailleul in which the Division defended Neuve Eglise (13-15 April)

The First Battle of Kemmel Ridge (17-19 April)
The Second Battle of Kemmel Ridge (25-27 April)
The Battle of the Scherpenberg (29 April)
battles are phases of the Battles of the Lys
The pursuit to the Selle (August – November 1918)

In early September the battalion was near Havrincourt and on the 12th September fought a battle and broke through the Hindenburg Line and the Division took the town of Havrincourt. The fighting continued around this area and the town of Epehy with preparations for an assault on the Hindenburg Line.

Harold was missing, presumed killed in action on the 22nd September 1918.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and the Vis-en-Artois Memorial for the missing.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group