Harvey Dunford





Rank: - Private.

Number: - 12/2139

Regiment/ Battalion: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1st Battalion

Killed in Action: - 3rd October 1918 aged 22

Cemetery: - Templeux-le- Geurard British Cemetery, Somme 1.J.4.

"THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN THE HANDS OF GOD"

Batley News, 23 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details.

Harvey was born at Savile Town on 16th October 1895 the only child of John Henry and his wife Annice (nee Riley) who had married at Thornhill Lees in 1893. John Henry was described as being a miller. On 18th May 1893 when he had married he was employed as a fuller.

The family in 1901 was living in Station Road, Earlsheaton and John Henry was once again a cloth fuller. Ten years later they were living at Trinity Street, Batley Carr and Jane Dunford his paternal grandmother was also living with them. Harvey was working as a piecener in the spinning department of a mill.

Harvey was educated at Earlsheaton Council schools before moving to Batley Carr when he continued his education at Purlwell School. He was in the choir at St. Andrew's Church. After leaving school he worked at Messrs. H. Fenton and Sons, Headfield Mills, Savile Town later working at Messrs. Mark Oldroyd and Son's, Calder Mills, Dewsbury in the milling department.

At the time of his death his parents had moved to 9, Walker's Mount, Batley.

Service Details

Most of the three years of army service was spent in Salonika before being transferred to France in July 1918.

The 1st King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was part of 50th (Northumberland) Division in France. They served in Salonika for around three years during the First World War.

Harry and his battalion were at Boomerang Wood on the 1st October 1918 and marched to Epehy arriving at Vaughan's bank at 8.30 pm.

On the 2nd August at 3.30pm they moved in support to149th Infantry Brigade in the Hindenburg Line relieving 37th and 39th Battalions of the Australian Light Infantry. 2 other ranks were killed and 2 other ranks were wounded by shells on the Lempire –Bony Road.

On the 3rd October the battalion moved to "jumping off" point to attack enemy objective, Prospect Hill. The objective was gained at 10 am but they encountered

heavy 5.9 barrages north east of Bony. Lieut. J. G.V. Ewings and P.J. Hill along with 42 other ranks were killed; seven officers and 143 other ranks were wounded. However, they did capture 3 officers and 206 other ranks were taken prisoner.

Harvey was one of those killed.

Harvey was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at St. Andrew's Purlwell, Batley War Memorial, Dewsbury War Memorial; Earlsheaton Park War Memorial; St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton and the Templeux-le-Geurard British Cemetery, Somme, France.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group