Harry Farrar



Rank: - Private

Number: - 34125

Regiment/ Battalion: - West Yorkshire (Prince of Wales's Own) "A" Company 1st Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 15th April 1917 aged 35

Cemetery: - Choques Military, 1.K.15

Batley News, 28 Apr 1917

Family Details:

Harry was born in Batley in early 1882 the son Wharton and Mary (nee Horsfield) Farrar. Wharton was a stone quarry man and in 1891 he was living at 3, Carlinghow Lane with his family which now included a younger son, Willie born in 1886, his widowed father-in-law and two boarders.

Willie unfortunately died in January 1892 age 6 years. Another son, Fred was born in February 1894 but sadly died the following November at the age of 9 months.

The family had moved to 9, Carlinghow Lane before the next census in 1901 and further bad luck befell the family when Wharton died in November 1903. Harry's mother married Willie Gledhill in 1909 but he died later the same year and she then, in 1910, married Harry Bruce who was the head carter for the Co-op Society and moved to live at 8, Zion Street, Batley followed by 3, Ealand Road, Batley.

Harry attended St. John's Church, Carlinghow and was also a teacher in the Sunday School. He was also a member of Batley Working Men's Club. After leaving school he served his apprenticeship at Messrs. J. S. Newsome and Sons, Batley to become a compositor.

On 24th October 1908 Harry married Sarah Jane Hudswell at St. Saviour's, Brownhill. Harry moved to work for Jowett and Sowry's, Leeds as a printer and he and his wife went to live in Holbeck where their son, Willie was born in 1913.

Service Details

Harry enrolled in Leeds in June 1916 and disembarked for France in September 1916. He had joined the Prince of Wales Own 1st Battalion which was part of 18th Brigade in the 6th Division.

He would have fought at the Battle of Morval (25th -28th September) when the town was captured and many casualties were inflicted on the Germans. This was followed by the Battle of Transloy (1st-18th October).

In early April the battalion was in the trenches at Loos and from the War Diaries one soldier was injured on the 2nd but on the 3rd April, snow fell in the morning, turning out bright in the afternoon and there was artillery fire between 9 p.m.

and 10.30 p.m. when five other ranks were wounded. The battalion was relieved on the 4th at 9 p.m. but one other rank was injured. They were Reserve at Mazingarbe until the 10th when they returned to the trenches at Loos.

News arrived to his mother and also his wife, who was living with her mother at Brookroyd, that Harry was wounded in the abdomen and could not be visited. On Saturday 21st April his wife received news from the War Office that he had died of his wounds on 15th April in France.

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

He is remembered with honour at St. John's Carlinghow, Batley War Memorial St. Savour's Church, Brownhill and Choques Military Cemetery, France.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group