Henry Field





Rank: - L/Cpl

Number: - 10321

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

Killed in Action: - 8th May 1915 aged 24 years

Cemetery: - Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Belgium 11.F.11

Batley News, 5 June 1915 (photo)

Family Details

Henry was born in Staincliffe in 1890 the son of John Field and Emma Sarah nee Newsome. The couple had married on Christmas Day 1889 at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley. When the 1891 census was taken the family was living with Henry's maternal grandparents at 80, Halifax Road, Staincliffe, Batley. John was employed as a firer of a stationary engine at a dyeworks. Mary Elizabeth was born in 1893 followed by Beatrice 1897-1919, James (Jim) 1906, Fred 1910. Joe had been born in 1895 but sadly died September 1898 aged 3 years, Susan died December 1901 aged one month, Ethel died March 1903 aged 7 weeks, May 1904 died May 1905 aged 11 months, Annie died September 1908 aged 7 weeks. John, his father, died in March 1912.

In 1901 John and his wife were living at 14, Wood Street, Batley with Henry and Mary Elizabeth. Henry had worked for Mr. S. Goodall, of Soothill, before enlisting and was well known in the district for his cheerfulness and kind –heartedness. Henry had enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1910 and was first stationed in Ireland and then in China for three years before war broke out.

Service Details

Henry was with his regiment in China when war broke out and they left Singapore returning to England and landed at Southampton on 9th November 1914.

In a letter home from China when war broke out, he wrote: -

"I do not know what you think of the Great War but out here we are taking it very seriously. Five of us are guarding some Germans who tried to escape, and if any of them tempt it again------! These fellows have been used to paying 90 dollars for a dinner, but now they have to eat the same as ourselves. This war is affecting us just as if we were on the spot---We caught 52 Germans trying to escape but they were caught and brought back. I think Germany will be sorry she ever went to war with England, and I am ready to do my little bit."

On the 9th November 1914 they moved to Hursley Park and on to Harwich on 18 November. On 17th December 1914 they returned to Hursley Park and came under command of 83rd Brigade in 28th Division. Henry came home for a short leave before Christmas 1914. Henry held a certificate for efficiency in his

department and was an expert machine gunner. On the 16th January 1915 the regiment landed at Le Havre.

They took part in the Second Battle of Ypres (22 April- 25 May 1915).

Official intimation was received at his home that he had been killed in action on the 8th May.

Henry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group