Henry Haigh Fisher





Rank: - Private

Number: - 12/1003

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 12th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 6th July 1916 aged 34 years cwgc7/7

Cemetery: - Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France I.N.23A

Batley Reporter, 4 Aug 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Henry Haigh was born in Huddersfield in c.1883 the son of John and Hannah Haigh nee Spink who had married at St. Paul's Church, Huddersfield on 27th September 1880. John died before Henry was born and Hannah married Frank Fisher on the 23rd August 1884 at High Street Chapel, Huddersfield.

In 1901 the family was living at 11, Mayman Lane, Batley and Henry was working as a hurrier at a coal mine.

In 1911 they were living in a two roomed home at 3, Fox Yard, off Russell Street, Batley. Frank was a house painter and Henry was a coal miner hewer. Staying with them when the census was taken was his married cousin Robert E. Fisher. His parents later moved to Cobden Street, Batley.

Henry was a well-known and popular member of the Batley Trades and Friendly Club and was employed as a miner at Crawshaw and Warburton's, Shaw Cross Colliery before the outbreak of war.

On the 17th August 1912 he married Selina Brook at Batley Parish Church. A child was born but we cannot be sure if Emily J 1913, George L 1914 or Fred 1915. Selina went to live at Morley before his death.

Selina married Alfred Grace at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on the 21st July 1917.

Service Details

Henry enlisted and went to the Front in September 1915. The 12th (Service) Battalion (Miners)(Pioneers) was formed in Leeds on 5 September 1914 by the West Yorkshire Coalowners' Association.

In most cases commencing training near home, (Farnley Park, Otley) the units were moved to concentrate at South Camp at Ripon in April and May 1915. There were severe shortages of arms, ammunition and much equipment. It was not until September that the Division moved for final training and firing practice at Fovant on Salisbury Plain.

In late November 1915 the Division received a warning order to prepare to sail for France. Advance parties began to depart. But on 2 December final orders were received that the Division would go to Egypt, accompanied by the artillery of 32nd Division. Its own artillery would join 32nd Division in France. The advanced parties were recalled and the Division sailed from 7 December, with Divisional HQ being established at Port Said on Christmas Eve. The last units arrived in Egypt on 23 January 1916.

The Division took over the No 3 Sector of the Suez Canal defences and Divisional HQ moved to Kantara on 23 January. The stay in Egypt was short, and between 1-6 March the Division sailed to Marseilles for service on the Western Front. The 31st Division subsequently remained in France and Flanders and took part in

The Battle of Albert including the attack on Serre (1st -13th July) which was part of the first Battle of the Somme started on Saturday 1st July at 7.30 a.m. and continued until the 13th July 1916.

It was reported that Henry had been wounded and died from his wounds. His parents had moved to live in Cobden Street, Batley at this time.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group