Harry Garside





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 18979

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery 70th Battery 34th Brigade

Died of Wounds: - 28th April 1917 aged 36

Cemetery: - Roclincourt Military, Pas-de-Calais, France 11.B. 15

Batley News, 12 May 1917, 19 May 1917, 9 Jun 1917. Batley Reporter, 11 May 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in Batley on 11th July 1881 the son of Joseph Garside and his wife Theresa Elizabeth (nee Rebbla). He was baptised at St.John's Carlinghow on 10th September 1895. In 1891 the family was living at 25, North Street, Batley. His father was a cloth weaver and his siblings were Mary Edith (1873), Louis Rebbla (1879), Clara Ethel (1883), Charles (1885-1888), Ernest (1887) and Martha Annie (1890).

A decade later the family had moved to 19, Pit Lane, Carlinghow with the additions of Beatrice (1893) and Mary Rose Ann (1896). Harry was working underground as a hewer at a pit. Joseph had become a tuner, and died in May 1909.

Theresa moved to live at 133, North Bank Road, Batley with her three youngest daughters after the death of Joseph. The 1911 census says there were 11 children born alive to the couple. Three of these would have been: - Isaac L. 1874-1877, John W.1876-1877, Charles 1885-1888,

Service Details

Harry enrolled the day after war broke out and disembarked on the 14th August 1914. He was in the Royal Field Artillery 70th Battery 34th Brigade which was attached to the 2nd Division until January 1917. At first it was commanded by Major H.C.S. Clarke but in January 1917 the 34th Brigade left 2nd Division to become an army level artillery brigade.

The Battle of Arras started on 9th April 1917.

An Officer wrote to his mother: -

"*He was seriously wounded on the night of the 27th -28th April. We had him taken to hospital at once. As his section officer I have nothing but praise for him for his coolness and calm under fire. He always did his duty well and conscientiously. He was also my servant, and in that capacity, I got to know him really well. I cannot speak too highly of him. His first thought was always for me, and never seemed contented until he had me made comfortable as he could. I shall miss him awfully. I shall never forget him whatever happens. As soon as I get any news of him, I will communicate with you. "*

ONLY 78 LEFT OUT OF 201.

Batley Gunner's Story.

Gunner H. Garside, R.F.A., of Cross Bank, Batley, writes to his mother:—I am still in good health. I should like an electric torch. Not many of us who came out at first are left now—I think about 78 out of 201. The other day I met a Batley man in the 117th battery—he was called Fitzpatrick. I suppose you have read of the big attack that was made about here. I think the enemy got more than they bargained for.

I am going on all right. I met some Leeds chaps the other day, in the Glasgow Highlanders. They seem to be decent chaps. One called Bottomley is a Rugby player—I think he played for Leeds. He knows "Joe" Auty very well. We are still doing a little bit, sending one or two shells over now and then, just to remind the Germans we are still in the country.

I think we are superior to them in every department. It is very seldom we get a shell near us now, but on our part we get some pretty close. About a week ago some 5.9 shells struck a farm house about 10 yards away. They came from, I fancy, an armoured train, so we put our "heavies" on to it, and it soon stopped.

You want to know how we live. Well, we live on the best, and if it will help recruiting you can tell all intending recruits there is plenty of sport, bags of "grub," big game shooting (at anything with a helmet), mud baths galore, and smoking.

Story in the Batley News 20th February 1915.

Harry was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at St. John's Church Carlinghow, Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel Batley, Batley War Memorial and Roclincourt Military Cemetery.



Researched by members of Batley History Group