Joseph Gibson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 37235

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

Killed in Action: - 20/02/1917 Age: 28 years

Cemetery: - Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm), Belgium V11.H.8

"DEATH DIVIDES BUT MEMORY CLINGS"

Batley News, 17 March 1917

Family Details

Joseph was born in Heckmondwike in c.1888 the second son of John & Ada Gibson (nee Spivey, m. 1884, registered Dewsbury). Ada had previously been married to David Hall and resided at Gomersal with their two daughters.

In 1891 Joseph was living with his family in Oxford Street, Heckmondwike. Elizabeth Hall 1879, Lucy Emma Hall 1881, Arthur 1885, Joseph 1888 and Clara 1891.

In 1901 John was a lamplighter living with his family at 2, Park Street, Heckmondwike. Willie had been born in late 1900. Harry born 1897 had died later that year.

Before 1911 the family had moved to 44, Chapel Lane, Heckmondwike and Joseph was working as a rough cutter at a boot and shoe works with his sister Clara who was a machinist. He was in fact employed at Heckmondwike C.W.S. boot-works.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted at Halifax but he did not serve abroad before 1916.

In 1916 his Battalion saw action at: -
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette
The Battle of Morval
The Battle of Le Transloy
which were all phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

Joseph was on leave just before Christmas 1916. His parents had received no communication from him for some time when news of his death came in a letter from the son of Mr. F.H. Stead telling him that Joseph had been killed.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Heckmondwike and Batley War Memorials and Heckmondwike Grammar School.



Researched by members of Batley History Group