Harry Albert Hall





Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 142552

Regiment: - Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) (Formerly 4011 West Riding Regiment) 62nd Battalion

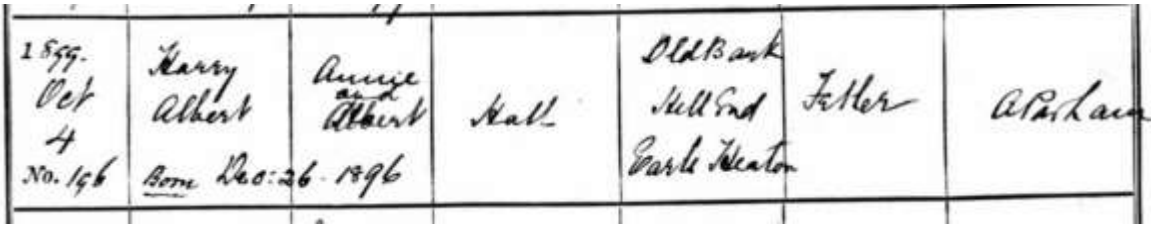
Died of Wounds sustained 20 Jul 1918: - 12th August 1918 aged 21 years

Cemetery: - St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France Q. IV. F. 13.

Batley Reporter, 8 Aug 1919 (classifieds). Dewsbury Reporter 9 Aug 1919 (In Memoriam)

Family Details

Harry Albert was born in Earlsheaton on the 26th December 1896 the son of Albert and Annie Hall nee Sanderson who had married on 12th April 1884 at Batley Parish Church. Both made their mark. He was a spinner and Annie a weaver. Harry was baptised at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton on 4th October 1899 with his mother giving his address as Old Bank, Earlsheaton.His father's occupation was given as a fettler.



In 1891 27-year-old Annie was described as a charwoman, head of household, married with Arthur 1885, Thomas 1886 and Ellen 1888 living at Town Green, Earlsheaton. Willie was born in 1890 but sadly died a few weeks after his birth.

His father had died on 9th November 1898 at Earlsheaton.

Annie married widower, James Lawless on 17th September 1900 at Earlsheaton Parish Church.

In 1901 the family was living at Hill End, Earlsheaton. Eva was born 1902. James Lawless seems to have been in debt quite a few times both before and after their marriage, serving short spells at Wakefield.

In 1911 Harry was living in a three roomed home at 16, Back Lawson Street, Dewsbury with his mother, half-sister Eva and brother Thomas and his family which comprised of his wife and three children in a three roomed house.

Service Details

His service records have not survived but we do know by his medals that he did not serve abroad before 1916.

Between 27 May – 6 June 1918: the (Third) Battle of the Aisne, 1918 was fought by a small and tired British force, sent to the Chemin des Dames in exchange for fresh French divisions that went north, was struck and virtually destroyed as part of another German offensive, Operation Bluecher.

However, the Battles of the Marne, 1918 was fought by a British force which took part in Foch's very large scale and highly successful counter offensive of the Marne, which proves to be the start of an unbroken series of Allied successes.

The Battle of the Tardenois (part of the Battles of the Marne 1918) was fought between 20 – 30 July.

Harry Albert was wounded on the first day of this battle and moved to Rouen where he died from his wounds on the 12th August 1918.

His effects of around £15 was left to his mother.

In August 1919 his mother put the following in the Memoriam section of the Dewsbury / Batley Reporter: -

HALL: - In memory of No 142552 Pte. Harry Albert Hall who was wounded on 20th July 1918 at Rheims and died August 12th 1918 aged 21 years son of Mrs. Annie Lawless.

To-day brings back sad memories of one I loved so dear,
And in my heart, I mourn the loss, and wish that he was near,
What would I give to clasp his hand, his dear kind face to me?
To hear his voice and see his smile, that meant so much to me,
I miss him, God knows, and mourn him dearly,
Some may think the wound had healed,
But they do not know the sorrow
That's in my heart concealed.
How little we thought when he said goodbye,
We were parted forever and he was to die!
Oh! the grief that we feel words cannot tell,
For we were not with him to bid him farewell,
We think our hearts would not have felt
Such bitterness of grief,
But the unknown grave s the bitterest blow
Only aching hearts can know.

We prayed for his safe returning, and longed to clasp his hand, But God has postponed the meeting— Twill be in the better land. From his loving mother. May he rest in peace.

With kind thoughts from dear Friend – Pat.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe, Batley War Memorial and Dewsbury War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group