Harold Hampshire





Rank: - Private

Number: - 242336

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Formerly 5590 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) 1/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds (Gas poisoning): - 13th June 1917 aged 22 years

Cemetery: - Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France 111.A.34

Batley News, 23 Jun 1917 (photo), 30 Jun 1917 (p3)

Family Details

Harold was born in Batley in 1895 the son of Arthur and Elizabeth Allerton Hampshire nee Dean who had married on the 7th November 1891 at Batley, All Saints Church.

George Fred was born in c.1893 followed by Harold and Elsie 1898. In 1901 the family was living at 82, Dark Lane, Batley and Almondbury born Arthur was employed at a woollen warehouse as a book-keeper. Before 1911 the family had moved to live in a six roomed home at 81, Dark Lane, Batley.

Arthur occupied a prominent position working at the warehouse of Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's at Station Road, Batley and this is where Harold also went to work.

Harold was an active member of Hanover Street Congregational Church, being a teacher and former secretary of the primary department. He was also keenly interested in the Band of Hope.

Service Details

Harold enlisted in March 1916 and went to the Front in September 1916. The 1/5th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was a Territorial Force which came under the orders of 148th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division.

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette on the Somme was fought between 15th-22nd September 1916 and this may have been the first battle which he encountered.

In 1917 the Division took part in: -
Operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush).

It would appear that his Battalion delivered an attack and the Germans counter-attacked with gas. Harold was admitted to hospital in the early hours of 13th June suffering from the effects of shell gas and died 3 minutes later. Eventually his kit arrived at the hospital and the chaplain wishing to find an address examined his correspondence. He found a postcard from the Rev. Hugh Jenkins, pastor at Hanover Street Congregational Church who he wrote to giving particulars of his death.

"This lad was very badly gassed. He arrived with no kit and no identity disc, so we could not tell his religion. I applied to his regiment but they have been unable to give me any assistance. I took the Church of England service. Later I discovered a letter as his kit passed through here bearing the name of his sister, also a postcard with your initials and address. I am deeply sorry that there should have been this delay but I waited to hear from the regiment."

His brother George Hampshire died of wounds 29th August 1918.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Congregational Sunday School, (Young Men's Class) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group