Harry Hampshire





Rank: - Lance Bombardier

Number: - 114599

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery 1st Brigade

Died of sickness: - 25th April 1919 aged 21

Cemetery: - Tiflis British Cemetery,

Remembered with Honour: - Haidar Pasha Memorial, Turkey. Screen wall Panel 14

Family Details:

Harry was born on 16th May 1897 to Walker and Eliza (Nee Haigh) and was baptised at Holmfirth, Holy Trinity Church 25th July 1897.

The family came from Wooldale, which is near Holmfirth except for Eliza who gives Huddersfield as her birthplace. Harry was the youngest of the five siblings. Willie (1881), Annie (1886), Edith Alice (1888), Florence (1893).

Walker was employed as a weaver living in a 3 roomed house at Longley Gate End, Wooldale. The boys became farm labours whilst Florence and Edith were woollen warpers and Annie a woollen weaver.

The family moved to 35, Prospect Terrace, Towngate Road, Healey, Batley sometime between 1911 and 1915.

Walker died in July 1923 and is buried in Batley Cemetery.

Service Details:

Harry enrolled at Dewsbury in October 1915

The Royal Field Artillery was the largest arm of the artillery. It was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and were reasonably mobile. It was organised into brigades, attached to divisions or higher formations.

During the First World War a whole new form of artillery was developed to meet the unusual conditions of war on the Western Front: the trench mortar. The lighter weapons being manned by the infantry, the Royal Field Artillery provided the manpower for the heavier mortars.

I Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, served with 27th Division. The Division was formed at Magdalen Hill Camp near Winchester in November-December 1914 from regular army units who had arrived back in England from garrisons of the Empire, having been replaced by Territorial units. The Division proceeded to France via Southampton on the 20th to 23rd of December 1914 as a much-needed reinforcement. The Division concentrated in the area between Aire and Arques being joined by Territorial units taken from other Divisions. In 1915 they

saw action at St Eloi and in The Second Battle of Ypres. In November they were ordered to Salonika in November 1915 and embarkation began on the 17th, but it was not until the 13th of February 1916 that whole Division finally arrived. Between the 30th of September and 2nd of October 1916 they were engaged in the capture of Karajakois, followed swiftly by the capture of Yenikoi and then the battle of Tumbitza Farm. In 1917 they were in action during the capture of Homondos. In mid-1918 a number of units returned to France and in September the remaining units of the 27th Division were in action in the final offensive in Salonika, including the capture of the Roche Noir Salient, the passage of the Vardar River and the pursuit to the Strumica valley. Hostilities with Bulgaria ceased on the 30th of September, the 27th Division continued to advance and war was ordered to halt and turnabout on the 2nd of November, being ordered to the Black Sea. The Division reached Constantinople on the 19th of December and set up a HQ at Tiflis in January 1919.

Harry died of sickness on 25th April 1919

Harry was awarded the British War Medal 1914-20 and the Victory Medal.

Commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church, Hider Pasha Memorial and Tiflis Military Cemetery.

The HAIDAR PASHA MEMORIAL stands within the war graves plot of Haidar Pasha Cemetery and commemorates more than 30 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War who died fighting in South Russia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, and in post Armistice operations in Russia and Transcaucasia, whose graves are not known.

An Addenda panel was later added to commemorate Commonwealth casualties who are buried in cemeteries in South Russia and Transcaucasia* whose graves can no longer be maintained. There are now over 100 Commonwealth casualties commemorated by the Memorial.

*Baku British Military Cemetery; Erivan Armenian Cemetery; Krasnodar Officers' Cemetery; Novorossisk (Chaikovski) Old Cemetery; Novorossisk New Cemetery; Odessa British Cemetery; Rostov (Bratski) Cemetery; Sevastopol British

Cemetery; Sevastopol Russian Cemetery; Shusha Armenian Cemetery; Tiflis British Cemetery; Vladikavkas Hospital Cemetery; Yalta Russian Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group