Harry Hargreaves





Rank: -Private

Number: - 34371

Regiment - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 8th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 30th September 1917 aged 32

Cemetery: - Bedford House Cemetery Enclosure No 21.D.6

Batley News, 13 Oct 1917 (photo)

Family Details:

Harry was born on 4th September 1884 in Batley, the son of Batley born couple Knowles and Mary Ann Hargreaves (Nee Gill) and was baptised at Batley Parish Church on 26th October 1884.

Knowles and Mary Ann had married at Batley Parish Church in 1872 and Mary Jane was born in 1873 followed by Willie (1876 Gomersal), Fred (1878 Birstall), Herbert (1880) and Ernest (1883). Knowles was a woollen spinner and had moved his family to Flanshaw Terrace, Flanshaw Lane, near Alverthorpe by the time of Herbert' s birth, but had returned to Batley before his other children were born Harry (1884), Annie (1886) and George (1890).

Mary Ann died in 1893 and in August 1895 Knowles married Esther Ann Culshaw (Nee Hinchcliffe). Sarah was born in 1896 and completed the family because in 1901, Knowles, Esther, Herbert, Ernest, Harry, George and Sarah were living in Taylor Street, Batley plus Josiah Culshaw (step son) aged 16 and 10-year-old Ethel Hopwood, an adopted daughter. Harry was a coal miner hurrier but before 1911 he had changed his job to become a dyer's labourer.

On 7th September 1912 Harry married Edith Woulds at St. John's, Carlinghow, and they lived in Brearley Street, Mount Pleasant near Edith's sister, Mrs. Skelly. His last job before joining the Forces was at Messrs. G.H.Hirst and Co. Bright's Mill as a rag grinder. He was connected to Batley Parish Church and also Batley Working Men's Club.

Service Details:

Harry joined up in August 1916, going to France in December 1916.

The 8th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was formed in Pontefract in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 70th Brigade in 23rd Division.

Harry would have fought at **t**he Battle of Messines 7-14 June 1917

Battle of the Menin Road 20-25 September 1917
Battle of Polygon Wood

The Battle of Polygon Wood took place during the second phase of the Third battle of Ypres in World War 1 and was fought near Ypres in Belgium 26 September – 3 October 1917. Much of the woodland had been destroyed by the huge quantity of shellfire from both sides since the 16th of July and the area had changed hands several times. The new advance was planned to cover 1,000–1,500 yards (910–1,370 m) and stop on reverse slopes which were easier to defend, enclosing ground which gave observation of German reinforcement routes and counter-attack assembly areas. The attack inflicted a severe blow on the German Fourth Army. Harry died in this battle and was buried at Bedford House Cemetery.

Harry is commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church, Broomhill Methodist Church (Taylor Street), St Andrew's Purlwell, Batley Working Men's Club and Bedford House Cemetery, along with another eight on the same day.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group