Harry Harris







Rank: - Private

Number: - 22456

Regiment: - East Lancashire Regiment (Formerly 1605 KOYLI 12th Bn) 6th Battalion

Died of Heatstroke in Mesopotamia: - 20/07/1916 Age: 24 years

Cemetery: - Basra War Cemetery, Iraq V.X.17

Batley News 12 Aug 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in 1892 in Old Swinford, Worcestershire the son of Joseph and Lizzie Harris (nee Whitehouse, m. 1888, registered Stourbridge, Worcestershire)

In 1901 the family was living at Albion Street, Ravensthorpe, the children were Elsie 1888, Frances 1889, Harry 1892, Joseph 1895, Herbert 1900. Two sons had died in infancy, Frederick 1893 -1894 and Frederick 1897-1898.

In 1911 with the additions of Ernest 1901 and Richard 1903 the family was living at Ravens Street, Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe. Harry was working as a piecener. Harry was connected with Ravensthorpe United Methodist Church and at one time assisted at Newtown Albion Football Club.

The family later moved to live at 20, Commercial Street, Ravensthorpe.

Prior to enlisting he worked at Messrs Mark Oldroyd's, Ravensthorpe Mill.

On the 5th December 1915 he married Jane Abbott of Norfolk Street Batley at Batley Parish Church. Her brother Willie Abbott had been killed in November 1915.

Service Details

Harry enlisted at Dewsbury in August 1915 and went to Mesopotamia in May 1916.

In his last letter to friends Harry wrote: -

"*Just a line to let you know that I and my pals are living comfortably in the land of the dust. I have done nothing else except but guard so far, and was only with my battalion four days after landing, being one of 26 chosen to guard for East Herts. Yeomanry. We don't get to know about anything going on out here but we manage to get a bit of news regarding France, though it's nothing at all hardly. I don't know how our Fred and Joe are going on, but I hope they get a cooler climate to do their fighting in. When we had left the ship and were marching up to camp, many were overcome and fell through the heat."*

Harry died of heat stroke just two months after arriving in Mesopotamia.

His brother, Joe Harris was wounded in the Big Advance in France in July 1916.

His brother-in-law Willie Abbott was killed on 21st November 1915.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Dewsbury and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group