Richard Harrison





Rank: - Private

Number: - 17995

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 1st Battalion

Killed in Action: - 18th November 1916 aged 18 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 4 A and 4 D

Batley News, 9 Dec 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Richard was born in Batley on 6th August 1898 the son of Richard and Izattah Harrison (nee Ford). He was baptised at Batley Parish Church on 17th September 1898 when the family lived at 102, Purlwell Lane and his father was described as a turner.

The family had moved to 122, Purlwell Lane before the birth of Robert Dex in 1901. Arthur was born in 1907 and Richard (snr.) had become a tanner and currier before 1911 when the family lived in a four roomed home at 20, Gladwin Street, Batley.

Richard attended Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday school and was also a member of the school football club.

Before enlisting he worked with his father in the family firm Messrs. R. D. Harrison & Co. Ltd. tanners and leather curriers of Wellington Street, Batley being apprenticed in the leather trade.

Service Details

Richard had enlisted under age on 16th January 1915 and was sent to the Dardanelles where he received a shell wound from which septic poisoning set in and he was sent home. On recovery he was sent to France only to be sent home with frost bite.

He went to the Front again in September 1915.

He would have fought with his regiment at the Battle of Albert in July 1916 and the Battle of the Transloy Ridges which took place between 1st and 20th October 1916. These were phases of the Battle of the Somme 1916 and although another attempt to take the ridges took place in November with the Germans being forced back a small distance the autumn weather now intervened.

A letter was received from one of his comrades: -

"It is my painful duty to send the sad news of Private R. Harrison's death. He was buried by a shell in a dug out along with a chum. The chum was killed outright and Richard was dead when he was dug out of the place. He was buried behind the trenches near where he was killed. We regret the loss of such a good friend

and chum. The boys in the platoon join with me in sending you our sincerest sympathy in your loss. This note I send is the result of a promise between the two of us before we went up the line. He was to write home if I fell and I was to do the same for him if he fell. Unfortunately, it has fallen to me to write such news to you. "

Richard was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group