William Hepworth





Rank: - Private

Number: - 47394

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers (Formerly 34054 KOYLI) 25th (Tyneside Irish) Bn.

Died of Wounds: - 6th May 1917 aged 30 years

Cemetery: - Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France XVIII. K. 19.

"TO MEMORY EVER DEAR"

Batley News, 21 Apr 1917, 19 May 1917 (photo) Batley Reporter, 4 May 1917

Family Details

William was born in Brownhill, Batley on the 8th December 1886 and baptised on the 6th April 1887 at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill, the son of John Edwin and Jane Hepworth nee Clough. The couple had married on the 2nd September 1882 at Batley Parish Church

John Henry Clough had been born in 1878. Oliver was born in 1883 followed by Harriett 1884, William, Harrison 1889 and Harry 1894. The family lived at 1, Wright's Buildings, Brookroyd Lane, Batley and John was a plate layer on the railway.

In 1915 William married Annie Brewer from Birstall and the couple went to live at 8, St.John's Avenue, Pearl Street, Carlinghow, Batley. Ernest was born in late 1915.

Before enlisting he worked as a warper at Messrs. G. & J. Stubley, Batley. He attended Birstall Wesleyan Chapel and was a member of the Birstall Tent of Rechabites. He also was a member of Birstall Liberal Club.

Service Details

His service records have not survived but William was in the K.O.Y.L.I. before transferring to the Northumberland Fusiliers 25th Tyneside Irish.

The 25th Battalion had been formed in Newcastle in November 1914 and from June 1915 came under the orders of 103rd Brigade, 34th Division. They landed in France in January 1916.

In 1916 they fought at the Battles of the Somme at: -

The Battle of Albert including the capture of Scots and Sausage Redoubts
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette

In 1917 they fought around Arras at
The First Battle of the Scarpe (9th-14th April)

William was wounded in the right wrist and right leg, which was broken in two places and was taken to hospital. His wife was notified that he was going on nicely. Sadly, she was later notified that it was necessary to amputate his leg. Sadly, his condition deteriorated and he died of his wounds on the 6th May 1917.

At the time of his death his brother, Harrison was serving in France with the KOYLI and Harry was also with the K.O.Y.L.I. but was in training in England.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Saviour's Brownhill; Birstall Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (St John's); Temperance Hall – Smithies Lane, Birstall; Independent Order of Rechabites, Hope of Birstall Lodge and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group