Harry Heward







Rank: - Private

Number: - 43283

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry (formerly 30696 KOYLI, 34856 East Yorkshire Regiment) 20th Battalion

Killed in Action:-21st September 1917 aged 22 years

Cemetery: - Hooge Crater Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium X111.L.1

"SACRIFICED ALL THAT WE MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM"

Batley News, 20 Oct 1917, 27 Oct 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in Batley in c.1895 the son of Albert and Frances Catherine Heward (nee Wood). The couple had married at St. Peter's Birstall in August 1889. Sarah Ann was born in September 1890 and the family went to live at High Street, Batley Carr. Albert was a card cleaner. Sadly, Sarah Ann died in July 1892 aged 22 months. Fred was born in 1892 and both the 1901 and 1911 census shows him living in Liversedge with his paternal grandmother.

Lilian was born in 1898 followed by Herbert in 1901 and both were baptised at St. John the Evangelist, Dewsbury Moor on the 5th March 1901 along with another three children from the Dewsbury Union Workhouse.

Albert seems to have disappeared before 1901 leaving his wife to go into the Union Workhouse.

It would appear that Frances may have gone into the Union Workhouse taking Harry and Lillian with her before Herbert was born in early 1901 because the census shows he was 2 months old.

In 1911 Frances was living with three of her children, Harry, Lillian and Herbert in a two roomed home at 18, Bank foot, Batley. She was working as a weaver and fifteen-year-old Harry was described as a coal oil teamer. Frances states she is married.

Harry attended Park Road School and Zion Chapel and Sunday school. After working several years for Mr. Frank Reynolds as a teamer he went to work at Blakeridge Mills in the "stock hoil".

On the 8th May 1915 nineteen-year-old Harry married Susannah Bradley at Batley Parish Church. He was living at 19, Bankfoot Place, Batley and gave his occupation as a teamer. His sister, Lilian signed the register and his father was given as Albert but no occupation or profession was given.

Thomas Arthur was born on the 8th November 1915. The family resided 27, Albert Street later moving to Back Talbot Street, Batley.

Service Details

Harry signed his attestation papers at Pontefract on 11th December 1915 saying he lived at 27, Albert Street, Batley and was a stoker.

Harry enlisted and disembarked on 13th October 1916 and transferred to the Durham Light Infantry on the 23rd October but was sent back to England with frost bitten feet.

He joined the 20th Battalion in France on 10th June 1917. The 20th Battalion was attached to 123rd Brigade in 41st Division.

The Battalion fought at the Battle of Messines (7-14th June), Battle of Pilkem Ridge (31st July-2nd August) and the Battle of Menin Road commenced on 20th September lasting until the 25th.

The battalion was in Hedge Street trench on the 20th and zero hours was scheduled for 5.40 am. On the 21st they were near Tower Hamlets and at 7 am orders were received to attack the Green Line with 10th Battalion Kent Regt. The attack pushed out for about 200 yards but there was heavy machine gun fire from the enemy and they were forced to dig in but not before they had received heavy casualties. About 3 pm the enemy advanced over Tower Hamlets ridge but was driven back with rife fire and Lewis guns which inflicted heavy casualties. At about 4pm the enemy attacked the forward slope of the ridge to the rear of Basseville-Beak and later put up a box barrage on the Durham Light Infantry. Several officers died and 33 other ranks were killed and 188 other ranks were wounded.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Hooge Crater Cemetery and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group