Thomas Willie Hick





Rank: - Private

Number: - 11483

Regiment / Battalion: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion

Died of wounds: - 2nd August 1916 at Cambridge aged 20

Cemetery: - Batley F 421

Batley News, 12 Aug 1916. Dewsbury Reporter, 12 Aug 1916

HICK.—On the 2nd inst., aged 20 years, Thomas W., son of John Wm. Hick, Wheatcroft.

Family Details

Thomas William was born in Batley on 30th November 1895 the son of John William Hick and his wife Frances (nee Kerridge) who came from Suffolk. The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 23rd March 1887.

In 1891 the couple with their two daughters were living at Purlwell Yard and John gave his occupation as a gardener.

John William was a nursery man and seeds man who lived at Hirst's Place, Purlwell Lane in 1901 with his family Frances , Minnie,(1889), Mary(1891), Norman (1892) and Thomas William. Doris Hannah and was born in 1901 followed by Alfred (1903) and Bertie (1906). The 1911 census shows the couple had also lost two children in infancy.

Thomas William, known as Willie, followed his father and grandfather in becoming a gardener and in 1911 his brother Norman and he were staying with their grandparents when the census was taken.

The Batley News reported that he was associated with St. Andrew's Church, Purl well and was the assistant organist and a member of the St. Andrew's Church Institute, where he was a popular member of the billiard team, whilst Reporter said that he was prominently associated with Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday school being an organist with the latter. It also stated that he was attached to Purlwell Boy Scouts and had instructed the Scouts for some time in drill.

Before enlisting he helped his father at his business at Wheatcroft as a nurseryman and florist.

Service Details

Willie joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in August 1914. He would first have gone to Woking and then Witley in November 1914. He moved to Aldershot in February 1915 before embarking for Boulogne on the 21st May 1915. The 6th Battalion were part of 43rd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division.

He would have been in the Battle of Hooge where Division had the misfortune to be the first to be attacked by the flame thrower. He would also have seen action at Bellewarde.

He was severely wounded in the head in September 1915 and it is believed he received the injury whilst fetching water. After he was wounded, he was taken to St. John's Hospital in France before being transferred to the General Hospital at Cambridge. He had severe shrapnel wounds and had several operations but eventually meningitis set in and his parents received a telegram on Friday, 28th July asking them to go to Cambridge .They left immediately and stayed with him until his death the following Tuesday.

Willie died on Tuesday, 1st August 1916 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge nearly 12 months after being injured. He was interred at Batley Cemetery on the Friday afternoon 4th August. At the request of his parents there were no military honours and the Rev. C.H. Maggs officiated because of the absence of Rev. E.C. Edwards, Vicar of St. Andrew's. In addition to the family mourners there were representatives present from St. Andrew's and there were many floral tributes.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Thomas William is remembered with Honour at St. Andrew's Purlwell and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group