Alfred Hirst



Rank: - Driver

Number: - 26779

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery A Bty. 86th Bde.

Died: - 27th January 1917 aged 29 years

Cemetery: - Couin British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France V1.C.14

Cleckheaton Advertiser, 1 Mar 1917

Family Details

Alfred was born in Heckmondwike in 1887 the son of Clayton Hirst and his wife Sarah Ellen nee Mullan. The couple had married in 1872.

In 1891 the family was living in Brighton Street, Heckmondwike. The family comprised of Clayton, born in Birstall, his wife Sarah Ellen, born Huddersfield, Thomas Henry born Liversedge in 1873, Elizabeth born Heckmondwike 1875, Arthur 1877, Frank 1881, John 1884, Edward 1885 and Alfred.

Vernon Joseph was born in Heckmondwike in 1891 before the family moved to 97/99, Halifax Road, Staincliffe, Dewsbury before 1901. Clayton, who was born in Birstall, was employed as an overlooker at a woollen mill.

In 1911 Clayton was a widower living with Vernon at 52, Common Road, Batley.

On the 30th January 1909 Alfred married Mary Elizabeth Hinchliffe at St. John's Church, Cleckheaton. They both gave their address as Naylor's Buildings, Cleckheaton and Alfred was employed as a teamer. Sadly, Mary Elizabeth died within 7 weeks of their marriage.

In 1911 Alfred was a boarder at the home of Elizabeth Ann Hinchliffe who would have been his mother-in-law at Bradford Road, Marsh, Cleckheaton. He was working as a waggoner for a brewery. Before he enlisted, he worked as a teamster for Messrs. William Bennett and Sons, coal merchants, Cleckheaton.

Service Details

Alfred enlisted in Cleckheaton in September 1914 and disembarked in France on 17th July 1915.

His mother-in-law received a letter from and officer: -

"I very much regret to have to inform you that your son No.26770 Driver A. Hirst died on the night of the 29th January. It was quite sudden for I know he was in normal health the day before. He was properly buried by our Army chaplain and a cross to mark his grave is being made. The Graves Registration Committee will, on being applied to, have a photograph done of the grave. If you are unable to get in touch with them, I shall be glad to supply you with any particulars you need. I cannot say how much I regret and mourn your son's death. He has been

one of my drivers for a very long time and has always done his work in a most thorough and satisfactory way. The officers and his comrades in the Battery join with me in assuring you of our deepest sympathy in your bereavement."

Alfred was awarded the 1914-15 Star. The British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group