Joseph Hanson Hirst





Rank: - Private

Number: - 41669

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) (Formerly 41067 KOYLI) 15/17th Battalion

Died in 3rd Casualty Clearing Station, France after suffering from fits: - 02/07/1918 Age: 23 years

Cemetery: - Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France 111.G.8

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN FOR JESUS SAID LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS EVEN UNTO THE END"

Dewsbury Reporter 20 Jul 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Joseph Hanson was born on the 24th September 1894 in Taylor Street, Batley the son of Vero and Priscilla Hirst nee Brown. The couple had married at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 1st December 1878. Joseph was baptised at Holy Trinity Church on the 7th March 1910 when the family was living at 6, Richardson's Buildings, Hanging Heaton and Vero was employed as a weaver.

In 1901 the family which included Lucy born 1885 and Brook born 1891 was living at 6, Taylor Street, Batley. Percy born 1883 had died in April 1895. Lucy sadly died in February 1902 when the family was still at this address and Sarah Ann born 1880 had died in 1882 before her 2nd birthday.

Before 1911 the family had moved to a three roomed home at 12, Jack Lane, Hanging Heaton along with two boarders. When the census was taken Joseph was employed as a family butcher's apprentice.

Joseph attended Warwick Road Council School and until he was 21 years old was apprenticed to Mr. P.P. Newsome, Mill Road, Batley Carr and Halifax Road, Dewsbury. Before he enlisted, he worked for Dewsbury Pioneer Co-operative Society.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted at Pontefract in about 1916 into the KOYLI but was transferred to the West Yorkshire Regiment. He went to France but there he contracted trench fever and shell shock and returned to England and for 12 months had treatment at war hospitals in Manchester, Rochdale and Newcastle. From Newcastle he was sent for training to Whitley Bay and came home for a 5 day holiday in May 1918 before being sent to France. His parents were very upset on hearing this news and did not think he was fit enough to be sent to France a second time. After just a few weeks of him going to France they received a letter from 3rd Casualty Clearing Station saying he had been admitted in an unconscious condition suffering from fits. The same day he had a couple more fits and he never regained consciousness. At this time his brother Brook who was married and lived at Priestley Buildings, Hanging Heaton was in a convalescent home in Holmfirth. Vero died in September 1927.

John Hanson Hirst was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group