Thomas "Tom" Hirst



Rank: - Private

Number: - 16839

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers 2nd Bn

Killed in Action: - 08/07/1915 Age: 28 years

Cemetery: - Ridge Wood Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 11.A.4

"MAY HE REST IN PEACE"

Batley News, 24 Jul 1915. Cleckheaton Advertiser 24 Jul 1915

Family Details

Tom was born in Heckmondwike in 1886 the son of Charles and Margaret Ann Hirst nee Welch who had married on 25th July 1874 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall. Charles was born in Mirfield but Margaret Ann came from Mayo, Ireland. The 1881 census shows the couple living in Back Battye Street, Heckmondwike but appear, at this point, to be childless. George was born in 1881, Mary 1885 and Tom 1886. Charles who was a mill operator died in 1890 and in 1891 the family was living at Brighton Street, Heckmondwike. Margaret re-married in 1893 to George Mallin a widower, and in 1901 they were living in Milton Square, Heckmondwike. Sadly, Margaret died in early 1907. Tom was brought up by his aunt Mrs. Walsh of 30, Hollinbank Lane, Batley Road, Heckmondwike and worked as a rivetter at C.W.S. Bootworks in Heckmondwike before he enlisted. Tom attended Heckmondwike Roman Catholic Church every Sunday and carried the banner at the Whitsuntide Festival.

Service Details

Tom enlisted on the 12th January 1915 and left England for France on 31st June 1915.He had only been at the front seven days when he met his death. His brother, George who lived at The Crofts, Batley Road, Heckmondwike received a letter saying he had been killed in action on July 8th1915. A letter had been received from three weeks before he was killed and a parcel was despatched to him on the day he was killed.

He had a large number of friends and wide spread sympathy would have been extended to the family in their loss.

Tom was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, 1914-18, the Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group