Walter Hobson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 58124

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 5th Battalion.
(Formerly 32467 West Riding Regiment)

Killed in Action: - 20th July 1918 aged 19

Cemetery: - Cormas British Cemetery, Marne, France. Plot 1 Grave H Row 6

Family Details:

Walter was born in Carlinghow in 1899 the son of William Hobson of Grange Moor and his wife Harriett (nee Ackeroyd) who came from Adwalton. The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 7th November 1883 and William was a widower. He had married Sara Wood on 4th September 1876 and they had a daughter Gertrude (5th October 1878). Sara died in 1880 and in 1881 William was lodging with John Hayes in Heckmondwike. Gertrude went to live with her grandparents.

In 1901 the family with older siblings Emma (1884), Florence (1887), Richard (1888), Leonard (1890), George (1893) and Percy (1896) was living at 10, Birch Street, Carlinghow, Batley. William was a miner and Harriett and Emma were cloth weavers leaving 14-year-old Florence to look after the house whilst most of the others were at school or work.

Ten years later with the additions of Sarah (1903), Harold (1907) and an eighteen-year-old boarder Tom Wilson the family were living in a five roomed home at 37, Chaster Street, Carlinghow. Emma and Florence had left home.



Service Details.

Walter enlisted at Dewsbury into the West Riding Regiment being Private No.32467, changing to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 5th Battalion Private No. 58124.

His military details do not have appeared to have survived but we do know he was part of the 187th Brigade in the 62nd (2nd West Riding Division).

The Division in 1918 fought at the Battle of Bapaume on the 25th March followed by the First Battle of Arras on 28th March.

On 28th June 1918 French Intelligence reported a German attack would occur between the Rivers Marne and Oisny. This was last German attack of the war which began on 15th July near Rheims and the River Marne and lasted until 6th August 1918. The attack failed when an Allied counterattack, including several hundred tanks, overwhelmed the Germans on their right flank, inflicting severe casualties. The German defeat marked the start of the relentless Allied advance which culminated in the Armistice with Germany about 100 days later.

There was heavy fighting on the 20th July 1918 by the 62nd Division around Courmas and 56 soldiers, 28 being from the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry were buried at this cemetery that were killed on the 20th July 1918.

The Courmas Cemetery was created after the Armistice by bringing in the soldiers from the neighbouring battlefields where the 62nd Division had hastily buried them.

His effects were left to his mother.

Walter is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, St. John's Church Carlinghow, Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel and Courmas British Cemetery.

He was awarded British War Medal and Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group