William Holden



Rank: - Private

Number: - 9142

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Died at home: - 22/10/1921 Age: 33 years

Cemetery: - Wakefield Cemetery, Yorkshire K. RC. 926 (Coll. Grave)

Family Details

William was born in Staincliffe, Batley in c. 1887 the son of Mary Holden and in 1901 was living at 61, Chapel Fold with his mother and sister Alice who was born on 26th July 1891 at Shorts Fold, Chapel Fold.

In 1891 he was living at 75, Chapel Fold under the name of William Howard with his mother at the home of Annie Peach who says he is her grandson. She was a hawker and his mother was a carder in a cotton mill.

On the 8th March 1902, 36-year-old spinster, Mary Holden married 64-year-old widower Friend Rhodes who was a chimney sweep at Christ Church, Staincliffe. Both made their mark. In 1901 he was her next-door neighbour living at 52, Chapel Fold.

In 1911 William was with the 1st KOYLI in Hong Kong.

Service Details

William was a regular soldier when war broke out. His service records have not survived so we do not know when he changed to the 2nd Battalion.

In 1915 they fought at: -

The Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60 (22nd April-25th May).

It is not known what happened to William but he was discharged on the 7th January 1916. On 1st January 1920 he was awarded a pension of 40 shillings a week because he was 100% disabled. He died of general paralysis at the West Riding Asylum, Wakefield on 22nd October 1921 but records are not available until 100 years after his death.

William was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group