Harry Ineson





Rank: - Gunner

Private: - 48332

Regiment: - Royal Garrison Artillery 110th Heavy Battery

Killed in Action: - 27th August 1917 aged 27

Cemetery: - Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium V.E.23.

"HE GAVE HIS ALL FOR ENGLAND"

Batley News, 8 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in 1891 in Batley the son of Batley born James Lord Ineson and his wife Caroline (nee Thompson) who came from Heckmondwike.

James Lord Ineson born 1844 had previously been married to Louisa Field in 1866 and they had Alice Ineson (1868), David (1873), and Matthew Field (1874). Louisa died in 1880.

Caroline had married Hiram Garner at Batley Parish Church in 1871 and the children of this marriage were John William (1871)and Alice (1873).The family went to Philadelphia where Arthur (1876), followed by Hiram (1878) were born. They returned to Batley before 1881 when the family were living in Spring Gardens where widowed Caroline was working as a weaver to support her young family.

James and Caroline married at Batley Parish Church on 25th February 1883 and their children were Ernest (1884), Matthew (1885), Edith (1887), Ada (1889), Harry (1891). There was another child because the 1911 census states that there were 6 children born to this marriage.

In 1891 and 1901 the family were living at 17, Hume Street where James was a woollen finisher and in 1901 the 2 elder brothers were coal miners.

In 1911 the family was living at 48, Hume Street, where Harry was a fettler at a local mill, his two sisters were weavers whilst his 67 year old father was unemployed.

Harry was connected to Batley Parish Church and for seven years a member of the Church Lads' Brigade.

He was employed before enlisting as a card fettler at John Blackburn s, New Ing Mills, Batley.

On 11th April 1914 at Batley Parish Church he married Amy Pollard whose father, John William Pollard, became a grocer at Crescent Street, Cross Bank although he had been a card cleaner previously.

The couple went to live at 4, Seniors Yard, Wheatcroft, Batley.

Service Details:

Harry enlisted in Batley on 4th August 1915, exactly one year after war was declared, and disembarked for Egypt on 17th January 1916. His Attestation papers say he was living at 4, Senior's Yard, Wheatcroft, but later moved to 60, Queen Street, Batley. He was 5 feet 8 3/4 inches in height and had a girth of 37 inches, his occupation was a fettler.

He was probably in the R. G. A. depot ranks when he first joined the army and was sent with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on the 17th January 1916 to work at the Alexandria Depot, Field Punishment, Hospital Facility in Mustapha, Alexandria.

On the 29th January 1916 he committed an unspecified offence and given one month Field Punishment to run from 4th February 1916, but on the 19th February he was hospitalised with Bronchial and Gastric Catarrh. It appears he was in the Mustapha Field Punishment Compound, Alexandria when this happened and was discharged on 16th March 1916.

He joined the 130th Heavy Battery R.G.A. on 29th March in Ismailia, Egypt and embarked on the 8th April 1916 in Alexandria on board the "S.S. *Caledonian"* for Marseilles, France arriving on the 15th April 1916.

He had a 2 day visit to a Field Hospital on the 17th May before being given leave to the United Kingdom with ration allowance from 20th to 30th December 1916.

He was in trouble again, for insolence, in May 1917 and in hospital again in June 1917. According to the Batley News report this may have been because he had been gassed. Harry transferred to Base Depot on 4th August and was transferred yet again to 110th Heavy in the field on 25th August and was killed in action on the 27th August 1917.

After two dry days on the 17th and 18th August fighting broke out around the Menin Road where the Germans occupied the higher ground. At first the Allied Forces gained some ground and fighting between the 22nd -24th August failed with many losses on both sides. Cavan noted that pill-box defences required broad front attacks so as to engage them simultaneously. Attacks on the 25th were delayed because of failure to gain ground with previous attacks and bad weather. Attacks on 27th August were minor operations which were costly and inconclusive Haigh called a halt to operations amidst tempestuous weather.

Heavy Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy guns, sending large calibre high explosive shells in fairly flat trajectory fire. The usual armaments were 60 pounder (5 inch) guns, although some had obsolescent 5 inch howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Heavy Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising

A chaplain wrote to his wife:-

"*Your husband was killed in action this morning; about 2.30 a.m.It will be at least some comfort to you to know that his death was instantaneous and that he suffered no pain. Tomorrow he will be laid to rest in a cemetery."*

The CWGC site records 5 men killed in action on 27 Aug 1917 and buried at the same Cemetery as Harry. In addition to Harry there was another Gunner in the 110th plus 2 R.F.A. lads and a Royal Engineer. This suggests a relatively small action with the team probably suffering a direct hit.

A brother was killed in the Boer War and another was discharged after serving in WW1.

His widow, Amy, was awarded a pension of 13/9 a week starting from 18 March 1918.

Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is commemorated on Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church, St. John's, Carlinghow, and Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group