Harry Jaques





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 89406

Regiment: - Royal Garrison Artillery 256th Siege Battery

Killed in Action: - 30th October 1917 aged 20 years

Cemetery: - Dozinghem Military Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium X1.A.2

"GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST"

Batley News, 10 Nov 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in Soothill, Batley in c.1897 the son of John William and Harriett Ann Jaques (nee Whitehead). The couple had married on 18th April 1892 at Hanging Heaton.

John William was born in 1893 at Batley Carr, followed by Harry, and Norman born in Soothill on 9th May 1899. George was born in 1903 but sadly died at the small pox hospital aged 3 months in July 1903.

Harry attended Mill Lane School and was associated with Commonside Wesleyan Chapel.

In 1911 the family was living at 87, Commonside, Hanging Heaton and John William was described as a cloth finisher, John William Jnr. was a hurrier at a coal mine and 13-year-old Harry was working as piecener at a woollen mill.

Harry was well liked in Hanging Heaton and worked for many years at Joseph Newsome and Sons at Batley Carr but prior to enlisting worked at Messrs. R. Brearley and Sons, Queen Street Mills, Batley. He was keenly interested in junior football. His father died in 1916.

His brother Norman joined the Yorkshire Regiment and was wounded on the 10th April 1918 and was invalided home on the 17th April 1918.

Service Details

Harry enlisted in May 1916 and went to France in June 1917. Harry was wounded whilst going to the aid of his wounded Sergeant.

A Major wrote to his mother: -

"Your son was severely injured by the bursting of a shell, whilst going most gallantly under shell fire to the help of a wounded comrade, and I greatly regret he succumbed almost at once to his injuries and passed away painlessly. In your great sorrow please accept my most heartfelt sympathy and the deep condolences of the officers and all ranks of the battery, a loss which I can assure you is deplored by all of us, as a good comrade has been taken from our midst—one who was always cheery and proved himself a thorough soldier. He has been laid to rest in a British Cemetery."

A letter from the matron at a casualty clearing station says that he was seriously wounded on October 30th and was dead when he was taken into the hospital.

A Corporal in the battery wrote: -

"*It may be a consolation to you to know that he received his wounds whilst going to the help of his Sergeant, who had been wounded. He was a very good lad and was greatly missed by his pals. He had been in my section all his time out here, and was always cheerful under any conditions."*

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church, Hanging Heaton War Memorial(St.Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group