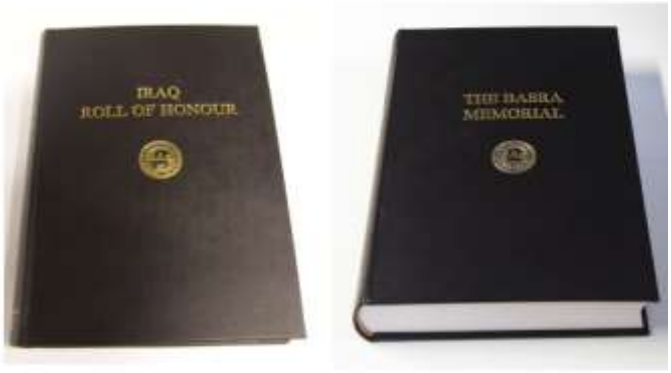
Arthur Gaythorne Joy





Rank: - Private

Number: - 4137

Regiment: - Devonshire Regiment (formerly 6064 Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) 1st/6th Bn (Territorial's)

Died from Disease, Basra, Mesopotamia: - 28/07/1916 Age: 37 years

Cemetery: - Amara War Cemetery, Iraq IX. C. 10.

Batley News, 12 Aug 1916. Batley Reporter, 18 Aug 1916 (photo)

Researched by members of Batley History Group

Family Details

Arthur Gaythorne was born in Liversedge in c.1879 the son of John and Hannah Elizabeth Joy (nee Forsyth, m. 25 Dec 1869, Birstall, St. Peter).

Granville was born in 1872 followed by Maggie 1873, Arthur Gaythorne, Percival 1880 and Annie Maude 1881. In 1881 the family was living at Liversedge Hall, Liversedge and John was employed as a grocer. Before 1901 the family had moved to live at 6, Yard 1 Halifax Road, Liversedge. The family moved to live at Chapel Fold, Staincliffe, Batley.

Arthur married Sarah Ellen Riley on the 31st October 1909 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. His marriage certificate shows his father had been a manager at the Co-operative stores and Arthur was employed as a labourer. His address at the time of his marriage was Staincliffe. Willie was born later that year.

The couple resided at 59, Mount Pleasant, Earlsheaton and Arthur was a respected member of Low Side Working Men's Club. He was employed locally as a mason's labourer.

Service Details

Arthur had been in the Forces for 17 years and as a reservist was called up at the outbreak of war.

He went to France and was wounded by a sniper in February 1915 and returned to England and was sent to Mesopotamia around April 1916.

His wife received a postcard dated July 2nd who wrote: -

" I am in the pink. We have not gone into the firing line yet, but we are getting a little nearer."

A few days later she received official news that her husband had died of "disease" on July 28th at Basra, Mesopotamia.



Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Dewsbury War Memorial; Earlsheaton Park War Memorial; St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton; Staincliffe C. of E. Junior School and Batley War Memorial.