Harold Lodge





Rank: - Private

Number: - 34088

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 10th Battalion

Missing, Presumed Killed in Action: - 4th October 1917 aged 23 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 108-111

Batley News, 17 Nov 1917. Batley Reporter, 16 Nov 1917 (photo), 4 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family History

Harold was born on 27th September 1894 at Ravensthorpe the son of Dan and Emma Lodge nee Sheard who had married at Battyeford, Christ the King on 29th July 1893. He was baptised at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe on 8th November 1894 when the family address was given as Dearnley Street, Ravensthorpe and his father's occupation was a dyer. Percy had been born in 1893 but died before Harold was born.

In 1901 the family was living at 16, Cross Woodbine Street, Dewsbury and staying with them was his maternal grandmother Eliza Sheard and Aunt Margaret Sheard.

The family moved to live at 9, Healey Street, Batley before 1911. Stanley was born on 25th June 1909 and was baptised on 1st August 1909 in Heckmondwike. The 1911 census shows the couple had lost one child in infancy which would have been Percy. Harold was working as a painter's apprentice.

Harold had served six and a half years with Mr. H. Sykes, painter, Mount Pleasant, Batley, before going to work for Mr. Brooke Jackson, Westtown, Dewsbury. He regularly attended Heckmondwike Wesleyan Chapel from early childhood until his late teens.

Harold was well known in football circles having played with the Healey Juniors Association Club.

His father, Dan, died in December 1915 and his mother married Ephraim Moorhouse in 1918 but sadly died in March 1920.

Service Details

Harold enlisted in August 1916 and went to France in December 1916. Around Easter 1917 he was hospitalised suffering from trench fever.

The 10th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry came under the command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division.

In 1917 they fought at the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14th March-5 April).

The First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14 April)
The Third Battle of the Scarpe (3-4 May)
the flanking operations around Bullecourt (3-17 May)
which were phases of the Arras offensive 1917

The Battle of Polygon Wood (26 September -3 October)
The Battle of Broodseinde (4 October)
which were phases of the Third Battles of Ypres

Harold went missing during the Battle of Broodseinde.

A month later his parents received an official notice that their son had been posted missing from October 4th 1917.

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

Harold is remembered with Honour at Healey Congregational Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group