Lewis Harold Lumb





Rank: - Private

Number: - M2/136016

Regiment: - Royal Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport attd. 291st Siege Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery

Died of Pneumonia, France: - 4th February 1919 aged 35 years

Cemetery: - Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 2, Somme, France 11.E.7

"HE DIED FOR YOU AND ME"

Batley News, 15 Feb 1919 (photo)

Family Details

Lewis Harold was born on the 17th August 1883 the son of David and Mary (Polly) Lumb nee Howroyd who had married on 26th April 1881 at the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel, Daisy Hill, Dewsbury. He was baptised on the 4th October 1883 at the Wesleyan Chapel, Dewsbury when the address given was Old Bank, Dewsbury.

His father who was a wheelwright and blacksmith came from Chickenley Heath and in 1891 he was living with his Stanley born wife Mary, widowed mother- in-law, Bertha Howroyd and children Edith 1882 Harold and Alice Blanche 1888 at New Bank (South Place), Dewsbury.

Within the next decade the family with the additions of Elsie 1892, Mabel Gertrude, 1897 and Lilian Ida 1900 were living at Wakefield Road, Dewsbury. Lewis Harold was working as an apprentice wheelwright with his father.

In 1911 the address given on the census was a six roomed home, Oaklyn Cottage, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury. Edith was an elementary school teacher and eighteen-year-old Elsie was a milliner whilst Lewis Harold was working as a wheelwright with his father.

As a boy Lewis Harold had attended Dewsbury Parish Church Schools and had been a bell ringer at the church.

Alice Blanche of 148, Wakefield Road, Dewsbury died in early June 1913.

Lewis married Gertrude Isabel Rhodes in October 1917 and went to live at Bunkers Lane, Staincliffe.

Service Details

Lewis Harold enlisted in 1915 but his service records have not survived.

The British Army was already the most mechanised in the world when the Great War began, in terms of use of mechanical transport. It maintained that leadership, and by 1918 this was a strategically important factor in being able to maintain supply as the armies made considerable advances over difficult ground.

All Mechanical Transport Companies were part of the Lines of Communication and were not under orders of a Division, although some (unusually known as Divisional Supply Columns and Divisional Ammunition Parks) were in effect attached to a given Division and worked closely with it. Those in the Lines of Communication operated in wide variety of roles, such as being attached to the heavy artillery as Ammunition Columns or Parks, being Omnibus Companies, Motor Ambulance Convoys, or Bridging and Pontoon units.

The first news of his illness came on the 1st February and the same day a letter came from the Matron at the 18th Casualty Clearing Station France who said: -

"Everything is being done for him, and I hope with care and comfort he may soon be out of danger. He only came to Hospital the day before yesterday. I think he thought he had just a cold."

Despite every attention he passed away on Saturday 4th February 1919 at Doulens, France.

Lewis Harold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe Dewsbury War Memorial, Earlsheaton Park War Memorial; St Peter's Church, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury Parish Church School Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group