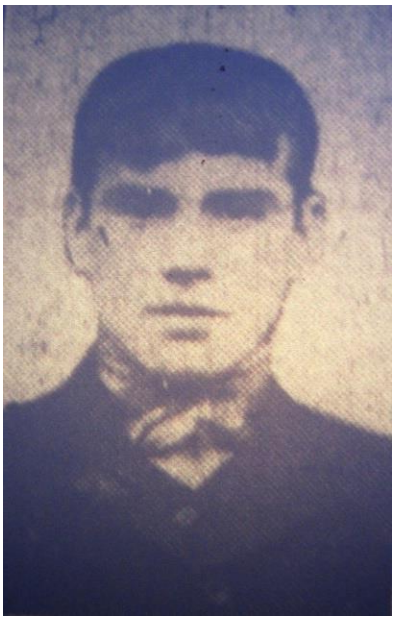
Patrick Lyons





Rank: - Private

Number: - 235098

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (formerly 4946) 1/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds: -6 December 1917

Cemetery: - Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium XXV11. D.1A.

Patrick was born in Batley on 4 September 1890 the son of John and Catherine Lyons (nee McGuire), shortly after they had married.

The 1891 census records the young family living at 10, New Street, in the household of Catherine's widowed mother, Mary, along with two of Catherine's older siblings and her niece. John was working as a mason's labourer, the job he undertook through his working life, and Catherine was a rag sorter, which was her regular recorded employment.

The family subsequently moved to 16, New Street, where they appear in the next three censuses. John was born on Christmas Day 1895, then came James in 1895, Thomas in 1897, Mary Ellen, born and died 1900, Michael in 1902, Catherine in

1905, but died just before her first birthday and Annie in 1907. The ninth child has not definitely been identified, but it is probably a boy, born in 1892, who survived for only two weeks.

In the 1911 census Patrick was employed as a coal hurrier. He continued in this job right up to enlisting in July 1915, working at Soothill Wood Colliery.

Patrick initially went to the Western Front in January 1916, to join the 1st /4th KOYLI, whose numbers had been depleted the previous month as a result of a German gas attack. He was allocated number 4946. At an unspecified date, he was buried alive as a result of German shellfire and was invalided back home to England suffering from shell shock.

In February 1917, deemed ready for service, he returned to the Base Depot at Etaples, where he joined the 1st/5th KOYLI, being allocated a new Service Number, 235098. The family received no further ill news concerning him for most of that year.

Patrick, described as highly respected locally, died from wounds at a Casualty Clearing Station on 6 December 1917. I have found no indication as to when or where he suffered his fatal wounds, but according to the Unit War Diary at the end of November 1917 up to 1 December 1917 his battalion was in the Front Line trenches in the area of Belgium near Molenaarelstoek. On 2-4 December they moved back into the Support Line trenches. It is in the period" B" Company working party were shelled on the Westhoek Ridge and incurred 7 casualties. It is quite feasible that Patrick sustained his injuries in this period.

Patrick is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Although 27 years old when he died, his age is given as 32, This is probably the age he would have been when his parents gave details to the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Patrick was awarded the British War and Victory Medals. He is commemorated on St. Mary's War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Thanks to Jane Roberts, for more information see pasttopresentgenealogy.co.uk