Joseph Henry Marriott



Rank: - Private

Number: - 38873

Regiment: - Northamptonshire Regiment (Formerly 30276 KOYLI) 1/4th Battalion

Died at Sea: - 15/04/1917 Age:36 years

Cemetery: - Syra New British Cemetery, Greece

Family Details

Joseph Henry was born in 1881 the son of Walter Henry and Elizabeth nee Berry of Marriott's Buildings Royd Nook, Mirfield who had married on 1st June 1875 at Christ the King, Mirfield, Walter gave his details as a farmer living at Roehead and Elizabeth hailed from Lee Green. Eleanor Elizabeth was born in 1876 at Roehead and Edith Maude 1879-1900 at Royd Nook when Walter gave his occupation as a brick maker. Agnes 1878-1878 Lucy and Mabel 1884

Elizabeth died in 1884.

Joseph at 10 years of age was living at the home of Thomas Helliwell, a farmer and butcher, at Sackville Street, Ravensthorpe and was described on the census of 1891 as an errand boy.

In 1899 Joseph was detained at Her Majesty's pleasure in Wakefield for gaming (cards) for 7 days or he had to pay 10/3 (about 51pence). He was 5 ft 5 "tall with brown hair and had had no education, he was employed as a labourer with no previous convictions. His father had died in 2nd Qtr. 1898.

It is possible that Joseph could have been living as a boarder at the home of Henry Rayner of 4, Chadwick Terrace, Wakefield in 1911 because this boarder was 28 years old and working as a railway porter which agrees with his marriage certificate in 1912.

On the 6th October 1912 he married Martha Myra Coulson at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton but he made his mark. He was a porter at Kirkgate, Wakefield. John William was born in late 1912 or early 1913.

Service Details

Joseph Henry enlisted at Wakefield but it is not known at what date although he did not serve abroad before 1916.

From May 1915 the Northamptonshire Regiment was part of 162nd Brigade, 54th (East Anglian) Division.

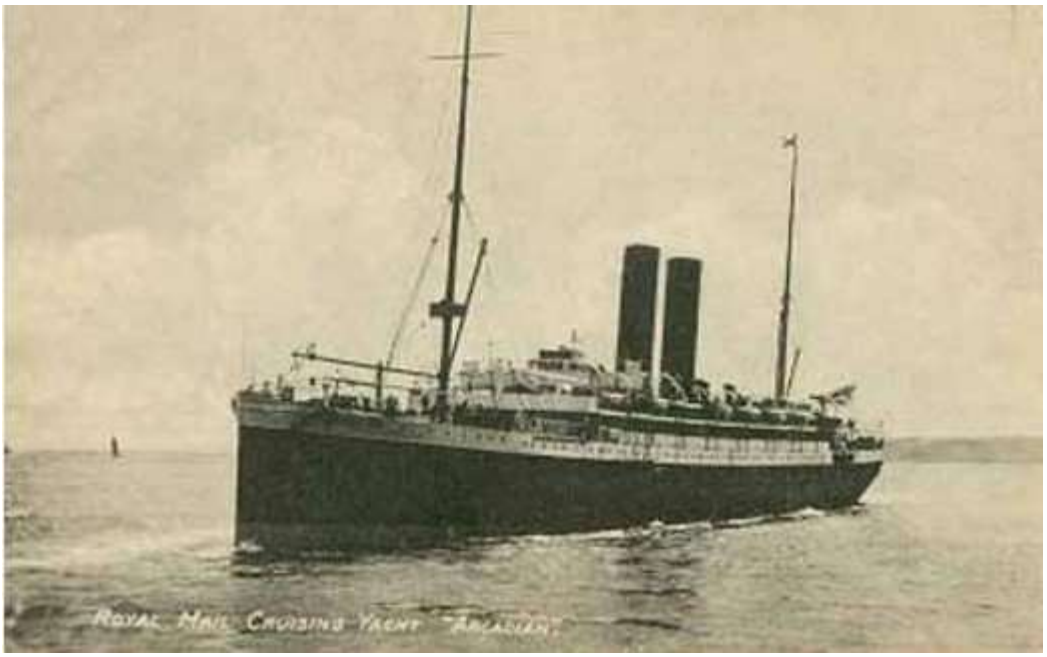
In July 1915 they embarked at Liverpool and moved to Gallipoli via Mudros, landing at Suvla Bay on 15 August 1915. On 19th December 1915 they evacuated

from Gallipoli and arrived at Alexandria and served in Egypt and Palestine thereafter.

In 1916

The divisional artillery re-joined at Mena Camp (Cairo) 11-15 February 1916. The Division occupied No 1 (Southern) Section of the Suez Canal defences on 2 April 1916.

In 1917 The First Battle of Gaza (26-27 March).



It would appear that Joseph Henry was on board the "Arcadian" which was sunk by a "U" boat on the 15th April 1917.

On 15 April 1917 *Arcadian* was *en route* from Thessalonika (Salonika) to Alexandria with a company of 1,335 troops and crew and escorted by a Japanese Navy destroyer. Shortly after completing a boat drill, while 26 miles north east of the Greek island of Milos, *Arcadian* was hit by a single torpedo from the German submarine SM UC-74 and sank within six minutes with the loss of 279 lives. A contemporary newspaper article described how four of *Arcadian's* overcrowded lifeboats were successfully lowered before she sank. Some of the dead were cooks and stokers who were working below decks. The escorting destroyer had two torpedoes launched at her while she was attempting to rescue men from the water; survivors reported that she had

lowered three of her own boats while going "at full speed".[7] More survivors, who had been clinging to a raft, were rescued at midnight by the Q-ship HMS Redbreast Among the dead was the eminent bacteriologist, Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, who was returning to Alexandria after advising on the control of an epidemic among troops based at Thessaloniki.

Syra New British Cemetery was made in June 1921, to take the scattered Commonwealth war burials from the islands of the Cyclades. Graves were brought in from Amorghos (7); Antiparos(5); Ekinosa (9); Heraklia (26); Kassos (1); Ano Kouphonisia (1); French Consular Cemetery on Milo (Melos) (20); Naxos (2); Paros (1); Santorini (1); Skarpanto (Kerpe) (9); Stampalia (Astypalaa) (3); Syra British Consular Cemetery (12) and St. Trias Churchyard at Livadi, Zea (Keos) (1). More than half of the graves are those of men drowned when the Transport "Arcadian" was torpedoed and sunk on 15 April 1917 in the middle of this group of islands. There are now 111 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 45 of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials commemorate 11 casualties known to be buried among them. Three special memorials bear the names of casualties buried on Antiparos and Skarpanto whose graves had been washed away.

Joseph Henry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group