George Hanson Milnes





Rank: - Driver

Number: - 113218

Regiment: - Royal Horse Artillery "P" Battery 16th Bde. Ammunition Col.

Killed in Action: - 24th March 1918 aged 22 years

Cemetery: - Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France V.C.4

Batley News, 13 Apr 1918 (photo), 27 Apr 1918

Family Details

George Hanson was born in Soothill in the summer of 1895 the son of David and Emily Milnes (nee Fisk). They had married on 2nd Dec 1893, Hanging Heaton, St Paul's of Soothill, Batley.

In 1901 he was living with his parents and sister Lily, born 1894, at 50, Dennison Street, Batley and his father, David was working as a woollen cloth finisher. Within the next decade they had moved to live at 78, Soothill Lane, Batley but later moved to 38, Oakdene, Soothill Lane.

George attended Purlwell Council School and Hanging Heaton Church Sunday School.

After leaving school he worked as a beamer for Messrs. G. & J. Stubley but immediately before enlisting worked as a warper at Blakeridge Mills of J.T. & J. Taylor.

Service Details

He enlisted on 23rd October 1915 and went to France in March 1916.

Driver Walter Auty son of Mrs J.I. Squires of Bridle Street joined at the same time and they trained together.

He wrote to his mother: -

"I suppose you have heard by now that George Milnes has been killed. I saw his pal the other day and he told me about it. Please give Mrs. Milnes my deepest sympathy."

The last letter his parents received had been on March 21st.

His parents received a letter from Driver Oxtoby who came from Tadcaster and was a close friend of George: -

"I suppose you have heard by now of poor George getting killed. He was sleeping with me at the time, when they (the Germans) came over and bombed us. George jumped up and a piece of shrapnel hit him. Another lad was killed and eight wounded. We buried him at---. I miss him a lot. He had been my pal ever since he came out here."

Corporal C. Hall, another friend described him as *"one of the best"* and "*he was buried with every respect."*

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

He is remembered with Honour at St Luke's Church, Soothill; St Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton; Hanging Heaton War memorial (St Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group