Harry Nettleton





Rank: - Private

Number: - R/3820

Regiment/Battalion: - King's Royal Rifle Corps 13th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 10th April 1917 aged 27

Remembered with Honour: - Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France Bay 7

Family Details:

Harry was born in Batley in 1890 the son of Batley born Walter and his wife Clara Ellen (nee Lambert). Walter was a cloth finisher and Clara was a weaver.

In 1891 the family was living in Nussey Hill with Clara's parents but in 1901 the family with the addition of William (1896) was living at 44, Cross Bank Road, Batley. Walter was working as a cloth raiser and Clara also worked as a weaver.

The family moved to Wittenberge in Germany where they were living when war broke out. In the 1890's many people went to work in Germany because Mark Oldroyd's of Dewsbury and J. Blackburn's, Old Mill, Batley had opened mills near Berlin. Clara returned to England when it was announced that British citizens were going to be interned at Ruhleben. Harry had left and returned to Batley finding employment at Batley G. N. Station 17 months before war broke out, but his father and brother were interned. His father although over 45 years of age he was still there when Harry was killed.

Harry attended Carlinghow St. John's Church when he lived in Batley, latterly at Beck Lane, Carlinghow.

Service Details:

Harry enlisted in the King's Royal Rifles in September 1914 and was sent to the Front in July 1915 where he was slightly wounded twice.

On the 29th July 1915 an advance party of

He had re-joined his unit only a short time after being wounded for the second time when he was killed. He did not reach England because his officers needed him because of his knowledge of German.

The news of his death arrived on 20th April from his Captain: -

"It is with the deepest regret I have to tell you of the death of your son, who was killed in action on April 10th by a shell, which killed him instantaneously. I have known him for a very long time. I always chose him to go out on patrols with me and we had been in more than one fight together. His knowledge of German also came in very useful on more than one occasion. He will be greatly missed by all

his comrades, but none more than myself. They all wish me to express to you their sympathy in your great bereavement."

His mother also received a letter from a Chaplain: -

"It will be a comfort to you to know he died gallantly fighting for his country. In your sorrow may God give you courage to find the good which we believe must come out of this present sacrifice, which we are all called upon to bear. Your son will be laid to rest in a cemetery which is now being made on the battlefield. "

Harry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. John's Church, Carlinghow, Batley War Memorial and the Arras Memorial, France.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group