Herbert Pollard





Rank: - Private

Number: - 25699

Regiment/Battalion: - Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 121st Company
(formerly 24645 Yorkshire Regiment)

Killed in Action: - 8th April 1917 aged 21

Remembered with Honour: - Thiepval, Somme, France. Pier and
Face 5C and 12 C

Batley News, 28 Apr 1917 (photo). Also, Batley Cemetery grave number R 161.

Family Details:

Herbert was born in Batley in 1896, the eldest child of Allen and Georgina Pollard (nee Herbert). The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 8th December 1894.

In 1901 Herbert was living with his parents and younger sister Eva, born 1898 at 6, Healey Street, Batley. The census showed that his father, who worked as a Corporation teamer, was born in Healey and his mum came from Little Dean Hill, Gloucestershire.

In 1911 the family had moved to a three roomed home at 13, Coal Pit Lane, Carlinghow, Batley. Allen was a Co-op teamer, grocer whilst Herbert was working as a woollen piecener.

Herbert worked for some time as a conductor on the Yorkshire (W.D.) Tramways Company and worked principally on the Hick Lane -Thorncliffe Road route where he became well known. For a short time before enlisting he worked as a middle minder at Messrs. Wrigley & Parker, Valley Mills.

He attended Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel Sunday School, being a member of the young men's class there. He was also member of the Wesleyan Boys' Brigade. As a playing member of Clarence Intermediate Football team, he was also well known.

Service Details:

Herbert enlisted in October 1915 and went to France in May 1916. At first he was in the Yorkshire Regiment before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps.

He would have served at the Battle of Ancre in 1916 and the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in March 1917.Very near the Hindenburg Line they captured Fifteen Ravine and Villers Plouich in April 1917.

He was killed in action on Easter Sunday 1917. A Lieutenant wrote to his parents: -

"Your son was killed in action on the night of the 8th April. He was at the time working with his gun and was killed instantly suffering no pain whatever. He has been under my command since he joined this company and has always been a

reliable and efficient gunner. We all miss him very much, as he was very popular amongst his comrades and always the most cheerful companion to have under all circumstances. I buried him where he fell and everything possible was done. A cross has been erected bearing his particulars. My deepest sympathy is extended to you in your sad loss. None of us could wish for a better death than to fall while serving a gun against your enemy".

A year later in the memorials of the Batley News there appeared: -

POLLARD-*In ever loving memory of Private Herbert Pollard, Machine Gun Corps, who was killed in action April 8th, 1917.*

Though parted by the hand of God,
In Christ united still,
We shall meet again at the golden gate,
For Jesus said we will.

From Evelyn.

His effects were left to his mother.

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

Herbert is Remembered with Honour on St. John's Carlinghow, Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel, Batley War Memorial and Thiepval Memorial, Somme (where another three are commemorated who died on the same day).



Researched by members of
Batley History Group