# George Richard Preston





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 228703

**Regiment: -** King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

**Died of Wounds: -** 08/07/1916 Age: 40 years

**Cemetery: -** St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France A.24.23

Batley News, 15 Jul 1916. Batley Reporter, 14 Jul 1916 (photo)

**Family Details**

George Richard was born in Birstall on the 19th October 1876 and baptised at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on the 1st April 1877. He was the son of Arthur and Sarah Jane Preston nee Ramsbottom who had married on the 3rd June 1876 at the same church.

His father was a Batley lad and his mother came from Birstall but in 1881 they were living at Street Side, Earlsheaton and Arthur gave his occupation as a Licensed Victualler. Edith born 1878, Herbert 1879 and Henrietta born Street side in 1881 were additions to the family.

Before 1891 the family had returned to live in Batley and was living at No.11, Yard 3, Bradford Road. Amelia was born in 1882 in Chickenley Heath (Earlsheaton). His mother, Sarah Jane, died in January 1893.

In 1901 Arthur, George Richard, Edith, Herbert and Amelia were living at 22, Bank foot, Batley. Arthur was a cloth finisher whilst George and Herbert were coal miner hewers.

On the 29th March 1902 George William married Louisa Walker a 24-year-old weaver who also lived in Bank Foot.

In 1911 the family which also included his mother-in-law Mary Walker and children, Herbert Richard 1902, Harry 1904 Edith 1908, Fred 1910 was living in a two roomed home at 22, Wilton Street, Batley. Mary was born in early 1906 but sadly died in January 1909 at 19, Bankfoot, Batley aged 2 years.

Norman was born in 1913.

In 1911 his father, Arthur, was living as a boarder at the home of Robert Brearley at 77, Wellington Street, Batley.

George was a popular member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club and at the time of enlisting worked at Soothill Wood Colliery as a miner. The family had moved to live at 33, Russell Street, Batley next door to Louisa's sister, Mrs Mary Armitage whose husband, William, was killed in September 1915.

## Service Details

George Richard had served throughout the South African War and rejoined within a month of the outbreak of the war.

The 9th Battalion was formed at Pontefract in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. They moved to Berkhamsted and then to Halton Park (Tring) in October 1914, going on to billets in Maidenhead in November, returning to Halton Park in April 1915 and went on to Witley in August.

In September 1915 they landed in France.

In 1915 they fought at the Battle of Loos and on the 1st July-13th July 1916 took part in the Battle of Albert on the Somme.

George Richard was severely wounded having sustained a gunshot wound in the left arm and a compound fracture of the humorous bone and was taken to hospital in Rouen. His wife received news that he had been wounded and each day received further news about his condition. On the Tuesday the day after his death she received a letter written by the Chaplain at the hospital: -

*"It has been my privilege to attend him constantly since he has been in this hospital. He has bore his illness with a wonderful, cheerful patience and met his end with a noble confidence. The funeral will take place in a Rouen cemetery tomorrow with full military honours and I will ask the GRC to send a photograph of the grave. "*

George Richard was awarded the 1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group