William Henry Preston





Rank: - Private

Number: - 30382

Regiment: - East Yorks. 11th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 6th September 1918 aged 19

Cemetery: - La Kreule Military Cemetery, Hazebrouck, Nord, France. 111. C.14

Researched by members of Batley History Group

Family Details

William Henry was baptised at Holy Trinity on 9th July 1899, the son of Herbert and Florence Preston (nee Webster). At the time the family was living at 17, Thomas Street, Batley Carr and William was employed as a joiner. The couple had married at Holy Trinity on Christmas Eve, 1898. In 1901 the family was living at 15, Henry Street, Batley Carr.

William Henry attended the Parish Church and Council Schools and was also a choir boy at the Parish Church.

In 1911 the family was living in a two roomed house at 55, Upper Road, Batley Carr with Harry (1901), Herbert (1905) and Arthur born in 1906. William Henry was living with his paternal grandparents at 17, Thomas Street, Batley Carr. His parents had lost two children in infancy. These would have been Esther 1903-1905 and Sam 1910-1910. Edna May was born in the latter part of 1911.

Before enlisting he worked at Joshua Ellis and Company, Batley Carr in the stock place. The family resided at 6, Pickles Street, Batley Carr.

Service Details

William Henry enlisted in Dewsbury. The 11th Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment was attached to the 31st Division.

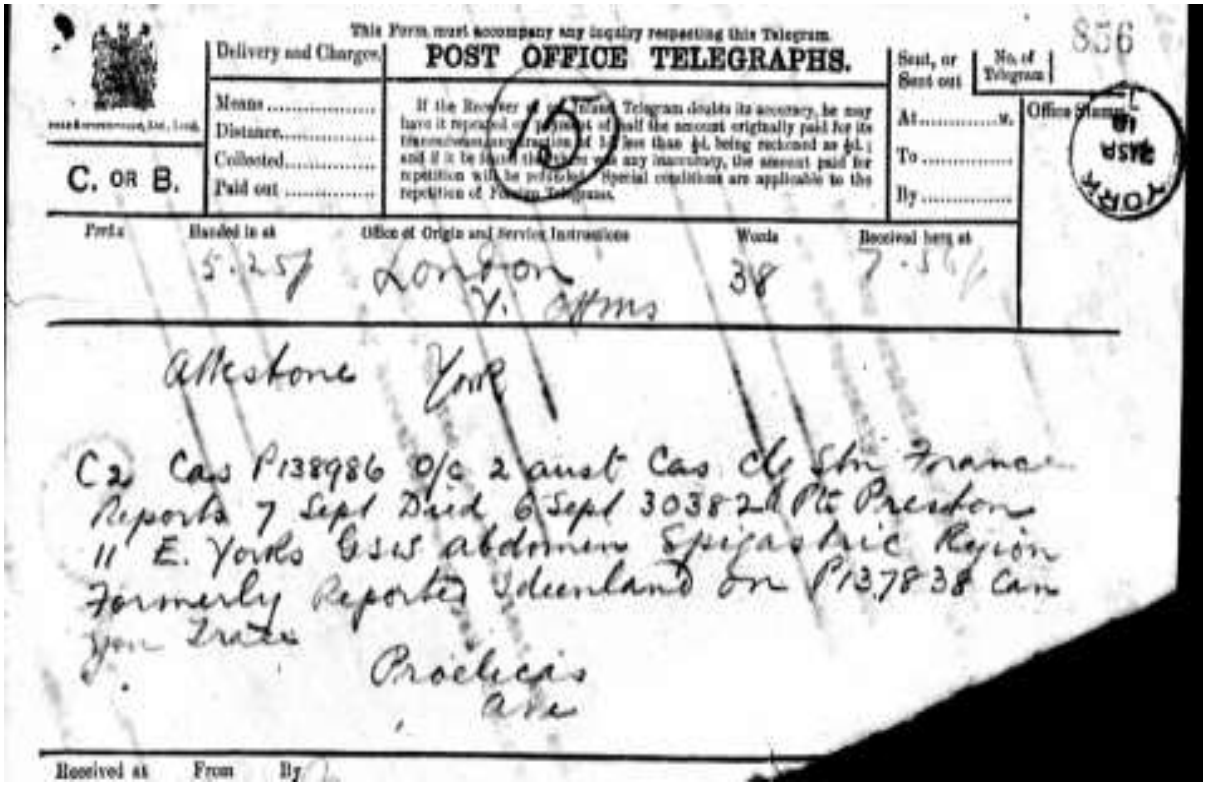
In 1918 the East Yorkshires fought at the Battles of St.Quentin, Bapaume, First Battle of Arras, Battles of Estaires, Hazebrouck, and the Defence of Nieppe Forest, the attack at La Becque which was parts of the Battle of Lys. This was followed by the capture of Vieux Berquin which was part of the advance on Flanders.

A Chaplain reported to his parents that William Henry had died of wounds

"He *was wounded on September 5th by a fragment of shell and died soon after admission to this hospital yesterday morning, September 6th."*

2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station would be the field hospital where he died. GSW abdomen is the state of his injury. *In anatomy, the epigastrium (or*

epigastric region) is the upper central region of the abdomen. It is located between the costal margins and the subcostal plane.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La Kreule Military Cemetery was opened in April 1918 by the 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations, which came back from Outtersteene ahead of the German and the 17th, which arrived from Lijssenthoek.

At the time of his death his younger brother, Harry, was serving with the Warwickshire Yeomanry.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.

