Harry Rayner



Rank: - Gunner/Signaller

Number: - 173912

Regiment: - Royal Horse Artillery "G" Battery 5th Brigade

Died after operation: - 3rd April 1919 aged 30 years

Cemetery: - Cologne Southern Cemetery, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany 1X.C.6

"SOME DAY, SOMETIME WE WILL UNDERSTAND"

RAYNER.—April 3rd, in 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, Germany, Sig. H. Rayner, aged 30 years, beloved husband of Lucy Rayner and son of Joseph and Mary Rayner, of 9, Grange Road, Batley. Interred with full military honours in Germany on April 4th.

Batley News, 12 Apr 1919. Dewsbury Reporter, 11 Apr 1919

Family Details

Harry was born on 27th March 1888 at 17, Trinity Street, Batley Carr, the son of Joseph and Mary Rayner (nee Overend). He was baptised on 28th April 1888. When the 1891 census was taken the family including, William Edward, born 1879, was living at 17, Trinity Street, Batley Carr. A child was born in 1881 and was a week old when the census was taken. Sarah Lizzie was born on 6th October 1891 and at the time of her baptism Joseph was described as a traveller.

Arthur was born in February 1882 but sadly died just after his first birthday. Edith Annie was born on 25th October 1885 when the family lived at 35, Trinity Street, Batley and she sadly died when only a few weeks old.

Harry attended Warwick Road and Carlton Road Schools and was connected Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday School.

In 1901 Joseph, Mary, Harry and Sarah Lizzie were living at 3, South View, Halifax Road, Batley Carr. Joseph was a foreman in a manufacturing works. William Edward had married in 1900. Within the next decade the family had moved to live at 9, Grange Road, Batley.

After leaving school aged 13 years Harry went to work for Dewsbury Co-operative Society as a draper's assistant.

On the 28th June 1913 Harry married Lucy Webber, youngest daughter of the late Robert Webber of Lady Ann Road at Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wellington Street, Batley. They went to live at 22, Peel Street, Batley.

After leaving school he was employed by the Dewsbury Co-operative Industrial Society. At the time he enlisted was the drapery manager at the Thornhill Lees store.

At the time of his death his brother, William Edward had been demobbed because he had been wounded in the hand whilst on active service.

Service Details

Harry joined the Army in September 1916 but his service records have not survived. Some reports in the Dewsbury Reporter state he may have served in Ireland.

He did serve in France and in 1917 his regiment fought at the First Battle of Scarpe (9/4/17) and the attack on Monchy-Le-Preux (10/4/17).

The “G” Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery came under the orders of the 4 Cavalry Brigade where it remained until March 1918 when it ceased to be mentioned in their Diaries.

After the end of hostilities Harry came home on leave before re- joining his unit in February 1919 in Germany. They arrived at the Artillery Barracks at Cologne in Germany on 27th March 1919. He complained of a severe pain in his leg and an X-ray showed he needed an operation and at first everything seemed to be going well and wrote a cheerful letter home on March 31st.Sadly he died on April 3rd at 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, Germany. He was interred the following day with full military honours.

His parents lived at 9, Grange Road, Soothill, Batley.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul’s Church, Hanging Heaton. Primitive Methodist Church, Batley Carr, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul’s) Batley War Memorial and Wellington Street Wesleyan Chapel, Batley.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group