Harry Richardson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 241819

Regiment: - West Yorkshire (Prince of Wales Own) 2/6th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 20th November 1917 near Cambrai aged 19

Cemetery: - Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.111. D.37.

Family Details

Harry was born in Staincliffe in 1897 the son of Arthur and Ada Richardson (nee Smith) who had married at Batley Parish on 26th November 1892.

Sarah Hannah was born in 1893 and died in 1905 followed by Sam 1894, Harry 1897, Walter 1898 and Ada 1903. The 1911 census shows there was another child who had died in infancy.

Harry lived in Bunkers Lane and attended Staincliffe Church Day School and on moving to Hanging Heaton attended Hanging Heaton Church and Day Schools. He was also a member of the Hanging Heaton Tent of Rechabites. He resided at 31, Bromley Road, Hanging Heaton.

He was never a strong lad and twice attempted to enlist but was refused eventually being accepted in September 1915. He enlisted at the same time as Thomas Race (killed 15/8/1916) and Tom Nettleton who lost a leg at the Front and was discharged. His brother, Walter, died 1st October 1918.

Service Details

Harry enlisted on 26th October 1915 when the battalion, which was formed at Bradford in September 1914, was stationed at Retford. In November 1915 they moved to Nottingham moving to Salisbury Plain in January 1916. They moved in June 1916 to Somerleyton near Lowestoft, October 1916 to Bedford and finally went to France January 6th 1917. The battalion was part of the 185th Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division.

Between the 15th February and 13th March, they took part in Operations on the Ancre followed by the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14-19th March 1917.

The Division then took part in the first attack on Bullecourt, which was part of the Arras offensive on the 11th April and the German attack on Lagnicourt on 15th April which was followed by the Battle of Bullecourt near Arras between 3rd-17th May. Actions on the Hindenburg Line took place between 20th -28th May followed by Cambrai Operations which was a tank attack between 20th -21st November 1917.

Harry was killed in action during these operations. His brother Walter was killed on 1st October 1918.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Ebenezer Chapel, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Staincliffe C. of E. Junior School and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group