Henry Scholefield



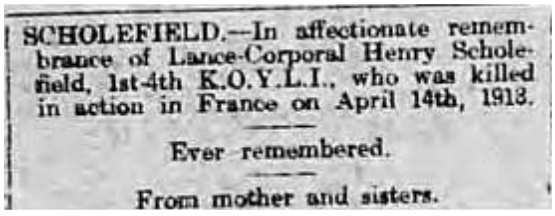
Rank: - Lance/Cpl

Number: - 235048

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th Battalion (formerly 5908)

Killed in Action: - 14th April 1918 aged 42 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 108 to 111



SCHOLEFIELD.—In affectionate remembrance of Lance-Corporal Henry Scholefield, 1st-4th K.O.Y.L.I., who was killed in action in France on April 14th, 1918.

Ever remembered.

From mother and sisters.

Batley News April 1919

Dewsbury Reporter, 4 May 1918, 11 May 1918

Family Details

Henry was born in Batley in 1875 the eldest son of Alfred and Sarah Ann Scholefield (nee Hunton). The couple had married earlier that year. Henry was followed by, Annie 1877, Alfred 1879, Jane 1881, Arthur 1883, Emma 1885 and Ellen 1887.

As a boy Henry attended Batley Carr Wesleyan Church and Sunday School but after moving to Bradford was a teacher in the young men's class in the Sunday School at the Church of England Church at Thornbury.

Henry attended Warwick Road School and then to York Training College from where he obtained his certificate to become a teacher first at Warwick Road School and then Usher Street Council School, Bradford from where he joined the K.O.Y.L.I. as a company accountant.

In 1891 the family was living at Oldroyd's Yard, Town Street, Batley Carr and Alfred was working as a woollen overlooker and Henry was a pupil teacher.

Before 1901 the family had moved to live at 5, Perseverance Terrace, Upper Mount Street, Batley and Henry had become an assistant teacher.

On the 26th December 1901 he married Annis Stocks at Kirkheaton Parish Church.

In 1911 Henry and Annis were living in a five roomed house at 6, Rushton Road, Thornbury, Bradford and Henry was working as an assistant school master for Bradford City Council. They did not have any children.

His father died in 1916.

Service Details

Henry enlisted in Bradford but his service records have not survived but we know he did not go abroad before 1916 because of his service medals.

He was attached to the 49th (West Riding) Division which in 1916 took part in the Battles of Albert, Bazentin Ridge, Pozieres Ridge and Flers-Courcelette.

In 1917 they took part in operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush) and the Battle of Poelcapelle.

In 1918 they took part in the Battles of Lys 1918 which was the third German offensive which took place in Flanders with the objective of capturing key railway and supply roads and cutting off British Second Army at Ypres. After initial successes the German attack is once again held after British and French reserves are somehow found and deployed.

They took part in the Battles of Estaires (9-11th April), Messines (10th -11th April) and Bailleul in which the Division defended Neuve Eglise (13-15th April).

On 10th April they moved by bus from Ontario Camp to fields about one mile west of Neuve Eglise. On the 11th they were ordered to hold the front line to the left of Neuve Eglise because the 25th Division was being heavily attacked.

They dug in with the 1/4th York and Lancaster about 100yards advance of the enemy line. The next day the whole area was subjected to persistent enemy shelling. At 4.40 pm the bombardment intensified but was driven off by rifle and machine gun fire.

The Brigade front was heavily shelled and H.Q. was moved into cellars of a house in the main street of Neuve Eglise at the junction of Kemmel Road.

At 7 am on the 13th the Germans penetrated the line and along Nieppe road entering the southern section of the village. The support companies of the K.O.Y.L.I., the York & Lancaster and the Worcesters counter attacked and successfully cleared the village but 2Lts Barnwell and Haigh were killed and Major Chadwick, Capt. E. E. Greenhough and 2 Lt. J. W. Stroud were wounded. The War Diary for this day reported “17 prisoners were captured by this battalion in the Y.M.C.A.”

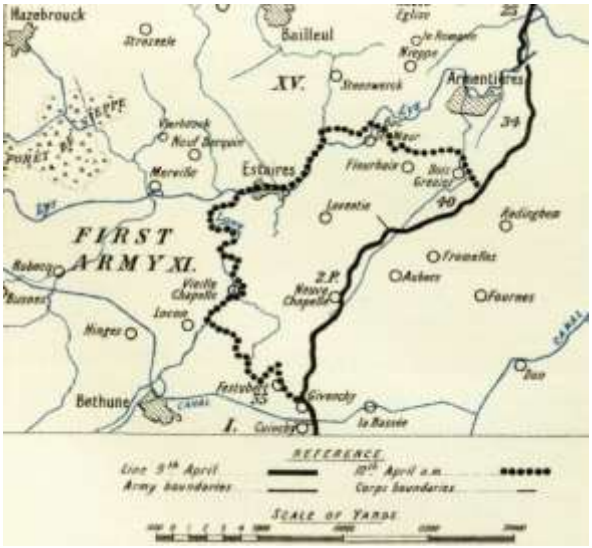
With the departure of Major Chadwick Lt. Col. Fraser rejoined the battalion before the next emergency at 5 p.m. Capt J.C.Burrows who was in charge of “W” and “Z” companies reported his positions were being strongly attacked and they were being driven back. At about 8 pm the enemy were seen to be in the village of Neuve Eglise and got some machine guns at a crossroads and strategic houses. That day the battalion had cost the battalion two officers killed, three wounded, 24 men killed and another two dying of their wounds and others wounded and missing.

During the night of the 13th /14th what reserve troops were available moved forward and by noon were dug into positions along the Corduroy Road. The Germans successfully attacked the front line. They attacked with grenades but sufficient bombs were not available for the K.O.Y.L.I. to counter attack. Throughout the day the village was subjected to very heavy shelling and by 6 pm two companies were almost surrounded and had to withdraw to a position 500 yards to the rear. One officer had been killed, two wounded, 38 other ranks killed, two dying of wounds and an unknown number wounded and missing. Henry was one of these men.

After his death his wife returned to Huddersfield to live at Northfield, Kirkheaton. His brother Alfred lived at Victoria Street, Batley Carr and his brother Arthur was the Conservative Agent for Pontefract.

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

Henry is remembered with Honour at Batley Carr Wesleyan Church, Warwick Road School and Batley War Memorial Addenda.





Researched by members of Batley History Group