William Henry Sharp





Rank: - Able seaman

Number: - R/4759

Regiment: - Royal Naval Division (Anson). Formerly RNVR.

Died of Wounds: - 28th June 1918 aged 24 (sustained 27th May 1918)

Cemetery: - Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France 111.E.21

"THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN THE HANDS OF GOD"

Batley News, 22 Jun 1918. Batley Reporter, 27 Jun 1919 (classifieds)

Family Details

William Henry was born on the 11th September 1893 at 11, Upper Howard Street, Batley the son of John Edwin and Sarah Caroline (nee Thornton). He was baptised at St. Mark's, Dewsbury on 22nd October 1893.

The couple had married at Batley Parish on 19th July 1890 and Ethel was born in 1891 in Batley Carr. Sadly, she died aged 3 months.

In 1901 the family was living at 9, Cross West Street, Batley Carr and Batley born John Edwin was working as a card cleaner and Sarah was a weaver.

Before 1911 John Edwin was working as a fettler at a woollen mill and William Henry was a colliery clerk.

William Henry attended Batley Carr Parish Church but later became a teacher at Dewsbury Parish Church Sunday School.

Before enlisting he was a clerk and storekeeper at Batley Gas Works.

Service Details

William Henry enlisted in June 1917 and went abroad in September 1917.

The Royal Naval Division was fighting in France and arrived near Ypres just before the Second Battle of Passchendaele (26th October -10th November 1917). They next saw action of Welsh Ridge (30th December), subsequent to the Cambrai operations. In 1918 they fought at the Battles of St. Quentin (21-23 March) and Bapaume (24th -25th March).

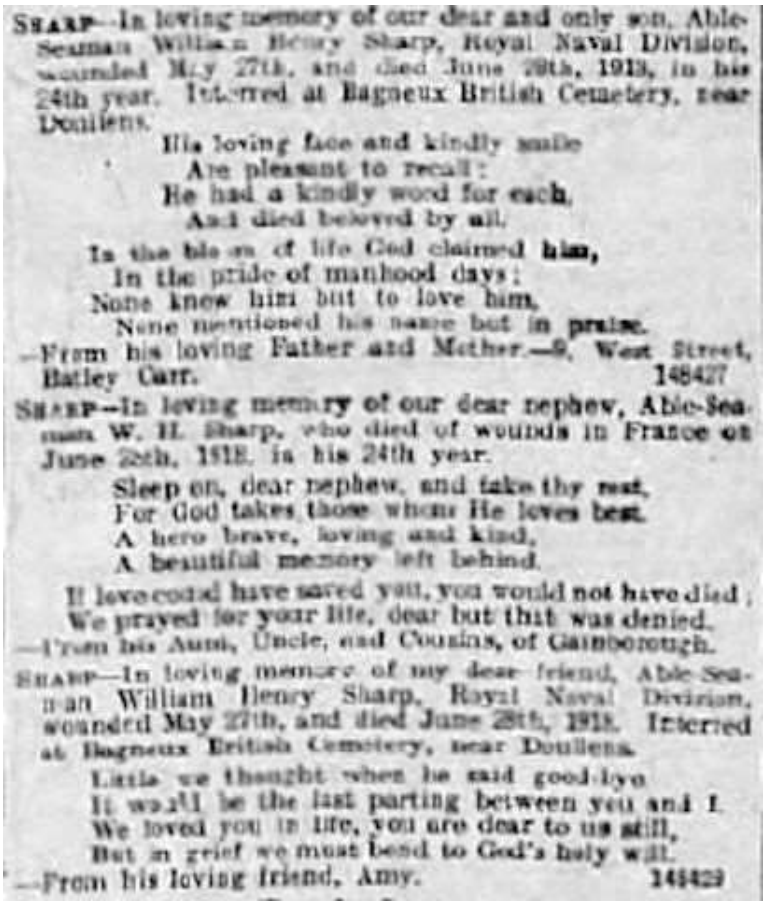
William Henry was injured with abdominal wounds on the 27th May 1918 and his parents received news that he was progressing satisfactorily in a hospital in France. Sadly, he died of the wounds on the 28th June1918.

A year later his parents, aunt and uncle and Amy put memorials in the Batley and Dewsbury Reporters.

SHARP: In loving memory of a dear friend Able Seaman William Henry Sharp, Royal Naval Division, wounded May 27th and died June 28th Interred at Bagneux British Cemetery near Doullens.

Little we thought, when we said goodbye,
It would be the last parting between you and me,
We loved you in life; you are dear to us still,
But in grief we must bend to God's holy will.

From his loving friend, Amy.



SHARP—In loving memory of our dear and only son, Able-Seaman William Henry Sharp, Royal Naval Division, wounded May 27th, and died June 28th, 1918, in his 24th year. Interred at Bagneux British Cemetery, near Doullens.

His loving face and kindly smile
Are pleasant to recall;
He had a kindly word for each,
And died beloved by all.

In the bloom of life God claimed him,
In the pride of manhood days;
None knew him but to love him,
None mentioned his name but in praise.

—From his loving Father and Mother.—9, West Street, Batley Carr. 14842?

SHARP—In loving memory of our dear nephew, Able-Seaman W. H. Sharp, who died of wounds in France on June 28th, 1918, in his 24th year.

Sleep on, dear nephew, and take thy rest,
For God takes those whom He loves best.
A hero brave, loving and kind,
A beautiful memory left behind.

If love could have saved you, you would not have died;
We prayed for your life, dear but that was denied.

—From his Aunt, Uncle, and Cousins, of Gainsborough.

SHARP—In loving memory of my dear friend, Able-Seaman William Henry Sharp, Royal Naval Division, wounded May 27th, and died June 28th, 1918. Interred at Bagneux British Cemetery, near Doullens.

Little we thought when he said good-bye
It would be the last parting between you and I.
We loved you in life, you are dear to us still,
But in grief we must bend to God's holy will.

—From his loving friend, Amy. 14842?

William Henry is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley War Memorial and Dewsbury War Memorial.

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







Researched by members of
Batley History Group