Harry Shortland







Rank: - Private

Number: - 202427

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Formerly 5341) 2/4th Battalion

Killed in Action by Trench Mortar: - 17th September 1917 aged 21 years

Cemetery: - Favreuil British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France 1.F.16

Batley News, 29 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in Staincliffe c.1896 the only surviving son of Ebenezer and Minnie Shortland (nee Day, m. 6 Oct 1890, Morley, St. Peter). In 1901 the family which included Bertha Rebecca born 1892 was living at 3, Baptist Street, Staincliffe and Ebenezer was described as a manager for a waste dealer.

Norman born 1903 died in infancy and Ann born April 1906 died aged 2 days.

Harry was an old boy of Staincliffe Church Day School and attended Staincliffe Baptist Chapel. He was greatly interested in all forms of sport and was a playing member of Healey Albion Football Club and Staincliffe Cricket Club's second team.

In 1911 the family had moved to 8, Oakville, Terrace, Staincliffe and Harry was a plumber's apprentice. This was probably for Mr. Walter Walker, plumber and painter of Staincliffe where he was serving his apprenticeship when he joined the Forces. At the time of his death the address was Holmeleigh, Staincliffe.

Service Details

Harry enlisted in March 1916 where he would have gone to Larkhill for training moving to Flixton Park near Bungay in June 1916. The 2/4th was a second line unit and they landed at Le Havre on 15th January 1917. They saw action in 1917**: -** The
Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)
The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)

In August they were on a tour in the Vraucourt positions and in September they were in the Bullecourt area.

Harry was reported to have been killed in action by trench mortar on the 17th September 1917.

He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group