Harry Simon







Rank: - Private

Number: - 17878

Regiment: - Coldstream Guards 4th Coy. 1st Bn.

Died of Wounds: - 1st August 1917 aged 22 years

Cemetery: - Dozinghem Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 11.B.11

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Batley News, 11 Aug 1917 (photo)

Family Details



Harry was born at Gomersal on 1st April 1895 the son of Henry and Ada Simon nee Ratcliffe who had married in 1888, registered Dewsbury. He was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Gomersal on the 5th November 1899 on the same day as his siblings, Ellen born 28th September 1889 and William born 10th December 1891. Henry gave his occupation as a time keeper.

In 1901 the family was living at Bleak Street, Gomersal but within the next decade they had moved to live at 6, West Park Terrace, Healey, Batley.

Harry was connected with Hanover Street Congregational Church, Batley where he was a member of the choir and of the young men's class. Before joining up he was employed by Mr. Henry Burrows, rag merchants, Batley Carr as a clerk.

Service Details

Harry enlisted in the Coldstream Guards and after 12 months training went to France in December 1916.

From the 25th August 1915 the 1st Battalion had been part of 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division.

In 1917 the battalion took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line 14th March – 5th April, and the Battle of Pilkem 31st July – 2nd August.
Harry was wounded and taken to hospital and although a field card was received by his parents saying he was quite well two days later they received a letter from the Matron at the hospital: -

"I am sorry to tell you that Private Simon was very badly wounded in the abdomen and although everything possible was done for him he never really rallied and passed away very peacefully. He was really too ill to realise he was dying. He will be buried with military honours and be with many of his comrades. The graves are very well looked after and his name and number will be put on a cross over him."
At the time of his death his brother, Willie had been wounded in three places and was in hospital in Edinburgh. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Hanover Street Congregational Church and Batley War Memorial.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group