Harry Smith





Rank: - Private

Number: - 5755

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry (Formerly 30673 KOYLI) 1/6th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 05/11/1916 Age: 23 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 14A and 15 C

Batley News, 6 Jan 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harry was born in Batley on 18th July 1893 the son of Sarah Smith and was baptised at Batley Parish Church on the 16th August 1893 when they were living at New Street, Batley.

In 1901 he was living at the home of his grandparents Richard and Catherine Smith at 8, Taylor Street, Batley. His mother, Sarah had married Walter Heywood on the 14th May 1894 at Batley Parish Church and they were living at Court 2, No2, Dale Street, Batley Carr.

In 1911 he was living with the couple saying he was their son at 4, Court 5, Taylor Street, Batley. Harry was working as a cloth cutter at a woollen mill.

On the 5th December 1914 he married Esther Armitage at St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell, Batley. Louie was born in 1915 and Iris in 1916.

In November 1915 Walter was killed in an accident at Soothill Wood Colliery by a fall of the roof.

Before joining the Colours, he was employed as a washer at Messrs. Brearley & Son, Queen Street Mills, Batley. He was well known in the district especially in athletic circles for he had won many prizes at local sports as a runner and sprinter.

Service Details

Harry was called up in June 1915 and went to France in October 1916 only three weeks before he was killed.

The Second Battle of Passchendaele took place between 26th October and 10th November 1916.

His widow did not receive official news until January 1918.

Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group