Horace Kingsley Stedeford.







Rank: - Lance Corporal

Number: - 551896 (formerly 4754)

Regiment/Battalion: - London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) 1/16th Battalion.

Killed in Action: - about 14th April 1917 aged 23

Remembered with Honour: - Bootham Cemetery, Heninel, Pas-de-Calais A 28

Batley News, 19 May 1917 (photo), 2 Jun 1917

Family Details.

Horace Kingsley was born on the 14th June 1893 at Weston Super Mare the son of Rev. John Britton Stedeford and his wife Bessie (nee Peardon). His father was a Methodist minister and moved around the country. He was born in Bristol and his wife in Stoke Damerel, Devon.

John Britton (1885), Edward Thomas Arnot (1887), was born at Chatham, Kent. William Arthur Peardon (1889) and Leslie Herbert (1891) were born in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. Edna Mary (1900) and Frank Howard (1902) were born in Lewisham, London.

In 1901 the family were living at 7, Hurstbourne Road, Forest Hill, Kent and John gave his occupation as a Bible Christian Methodist Minister.

Horace was educated at Bideford Grammar School and Batley Grammar School where he matriculated in June 1911 for London University. He attended Stafford College, Forest Hill before joining the Civil Service in the Colonial Office which is where he was working when war broke out.

When Horace lived in Batley his father was the minister for Broomhill Chapel for six or seven years living at the Manse.

On 11th April 1916 he married May daughter of Abel Hirst of Taylor Street, Batley at St. Andrew's, Purlwell, Batley. At the time of the marriage he gave his address as Hazeldown Camp, Winchester.

Service Details

Horace Kingsley joined the London Regiment on 13th November 1915 and served with the expeditionary force in France from June 1916.

He took part in operations on the Somme at Feuze Wood, Neuve Chapelle and Arras where he was killed in action on 14th April 1917. He was buried near Wancourt.

Official notification went to his wife and a Non-Conformist chaplain wrote to her: -

"I should like to express my sympathy with you in the death of your husband. He was killed between----and ---and understand was buried by the regiment that

took over from us and won the ground that your husband died in an attempt to take. He attended my services regularly and was a good man. He died and hero's death in the noblest cause ever a man fought and died for, I pray that you may be comforted by God who gave His Son, who died for the world."

His commanding officer wrote: -

"It was a terrible night. It seemed to rain shells, and our casualties were sickening, but your son was calm and collected and showed no signs of fear. During part of the time Stedeford and I were taking cover in the same shell hole and he spoke to me in the same cool and matter of fact tones as if going over the top were an accepted part of our everyday lives. "

His wife was living with her parents at 105, Taylor Street, Batley.

His parents had moved to Stepney Manse, Margaret Street, Hull.

At the time of his death his brother Arthur had just received a commission and was a paymaster in the Navy and Leslie was a staff sergeant in the forage department of the Army Service Corps.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, Batley Grammar School, St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell and Bootham Cemetery, Heninel, Pas-de-Calais.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group