George William Terry





Rank: - Lance Corporal

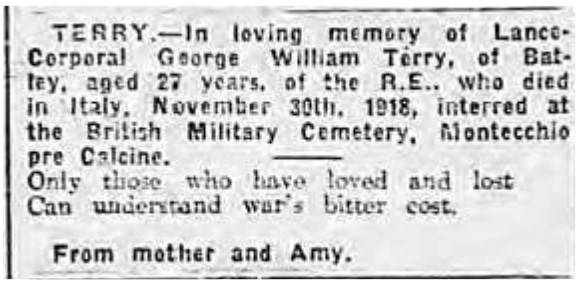
Number: - 479760

Regiment: - Royal Engineers 6th Field Survey Company

Died of Broncho Pneumonia: - 30th November 1918 aged 27 years

Cemetery: - Montecchio Precalcino Community Extension Plot 9 Row D Grave No.1914

"TOO DEARLY LOVED TO BE FORGOTTEN FROM MOTHER AND AMY"



TERRY.—In loving memory of Lance-Corporal George William Terry, of Batley, aged 27 years, of the R.E., who died in Italy, November 30th, 1918, interred at the British Military Cemetery, Montecchio pre Calcine.

Only those who have loved and lost
Can understand war's bitter cost.

From mother and Amy.

Batley News, 29 Nov 1919 (classifieds). Batley Reporter, 20 Dec 1918 (photo)

Family Details

George William was born in Batley on 21st May 1891 the son of Benjamin Terry and his wife Sarah (nee Hall). He was baptised at Batley Parish Church on 19th July 1891. He was their only child.

In 1901 the family was living at 52, Purlwell Lane, Batley. Benjamin's occupation was given as a bookkeeper at a woollen mill. Benjamin died in January 1905.

George William attended Purlwell Council School later going to work at the Station Road warehouse of Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor Ltd. He was connected to St. Andrew's Church and Sunday school being a former choir boy. He was also attached to the Batley Parish Church Lads' Brigade in his youth.

In 1911 nineteen-year-old George William was a number taker in the operative department of a railway company.

Service Details

George William signed his attestation papers to join the 4th Battalion of the Kings' Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 16th April 1909 which was a Territorial Battalion. He gave his age as 17years and 10 months and was a shop assistant for Batley Cooperative Company. He original said he had been unfit for service but this had been amended and initialled.

On the 25th June 1909 he was given a medical at Batley where it was stated that his vision and physical development was good and he was five feet two inches tall. He rejoined the Territorial's every year but was called up on 5th August 1914 at the outbreak of war. He was with the Territorial's at Whitby on annual camp when war broke out. He joined the expeditionary force in France on 13th April 1915 until 18th April 1916.

On the 3rd July 1915 he was away from his duties on the field because he had influenza for seven days. His time with the KOYLI's expired on the 7th April 1916 and joined the 49th West Riding Division B Depot he was sent home to England on the 16th April 1916.

He joined the Royal Engineers in January 1917 and returned to France but was transferred to Italy later the same year.

The Royal Engineers provides military engineering and other technical support to the armed forces. In August 1917 the total number of manpower had risen to 295,668.

In late 1917 British troops were sent to Italy to stop collapse. It was the idea of Lloyd George and against the wishes of the High Command.



A group photo of the men of the 6th Field Survey Company R.E.

John William is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, St. Andrew's Purlwell and Montecchio Precalcino Community Extension Cemetery, Italy.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group