**Harry Terry**





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 40019

**Regiment: -** King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

**Missing, presumed killed in Action: -** 25th April 1918 aged 27 years

**Cemetery: -** Wytschaete Military Cemetery, Belgium 1V. B.34

# "THE FRAGRANCE OF HIS LIFE IS STILL A PRECIOUS MEMORY"

Batley News, 17 Aug 1918 (photo)

**Family Details**

Harry was born in Batley in 1891 the son of Sam and Eliza Terry (nee Marsden) when the family was living with David and Mary Marsden at 7, Beckett Street, Warwick Road, Batley Carr. Sam was a willeyer. In 1901 the family was still living together at the same address but Sam gave his occupation as a woollen weaver.

In 1911 the family was living at 7, Beckett Street, off Warwick Road, Batley and Sam was employed as a teaser and 20-year-old Harry was described as a boot repairer. The couple had lost one child.

He worked in the boot and shoe department of Dewsbury Co-operative Society's Central Stores. He attended Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church and was well known member of Dewsbury Operatic and Dramatic Society.

On 3rd April 1915 he married Florrie Cockburn at the Wesleyan Chapel, Thornhill Lees. Florrie went to live at 7, Pickles Field, Batley Carr.

**Service Details**

Harry enlisted on 25th September 1916 and went to France in June 1917. After being there for three months he was invalided home with trench foot and spent seven/ eight months in hospital before returning to France in March 1918.

The 9th Battalion came under the command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division.

The Battalion fought in the Battles of St. Quentin (21st -23rd March 1918), First Battle of Bapaume (23rd-25th March), Battle of Messines 10th -11th April which was in Flanders and the Second Battle of Kemmel 25th -26th April 1918.

No official news came of his disappearance and he was not even posted "missing" nor was there any news from his officers but his wife received a letter from a close friend enclosing his gold ring: -

*"It is my painful duty to inform you that Harry has paid the supreme sacrifice. This morning quite by accident I met a man who was wearing a ring which I thought I recognised. On questioning him as to where he got it he gave me details of time and place which prove that my fears are correct. Having valued the ring very much, and as a last service to my departed friend, I secured the ring for a trifle knowing that you would prize it, as well as it being a means of*

*identification. If the enclosed ring is Harry's, then the news is correct his death being instantaneous."*

The ring was an old family ring and easily recognisable but the family did not want to accept his death on such slim evidence and appealed in the local press asking if anyone knew any further news. Sadly, he did not return home.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church, Dewsbury Co-operative Central Stores, Warwick Road Junior School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group