Arthur Vasey





Rank: - Driver

Number: - 118393

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery ”D” Bty 113th Brigade

Died of wounds: - 28/10/1917 aged 23 years

Cemetery: - Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
XX11. H.20

Family Details

Arthur was born in Blackpool on the 1st December 1894 the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Vasey (nee Singleton, m. 05 Sep 1882, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire).He was baptised on the 19th December 1894 and received into the church on 6th January 1895 at St. Paul's Church, Marton when his mother lived at Rosary Avenue. His father had been a clerk. He died in the 2nd Qtr.1894. On his marriage certificate Thomas declared he was a photographer and his father Thomas Vasey was a Baptist Minister.
In 1891, Banbury born, Thomas, Elizabeth and their children Thomas 1884, Richard 1886, and William 1888 were living at 1, The Rosary, Vicarage Lane, Marton. Arthur born 16th June 1891 died in March 1892, Annie was born on the 2nd August 1892 but sadly died later the same year.
He was brought up by his aunt and uncle Henry and Margery Cragg of Bessie's Hill, Marton, nr Blackpool. Before he was sixteen years old he was living with William and Ellen Alice Webster at Thatched House, Marton Moss where he was assisting William as a market gardener on his holding.

In the 1st Qtr 1913 Arthur married Agnes Harrison. Frank was born on the 3rd September 1914. They moved to Batley and lived at 20, Healey Street, Healey, Batley, Yorks.

Service Details

This brigade was originally comprised of A, B, C and D Batteries RFA and the Brigade Ammunition Column. It was placed under command of the 25th Division. The batteries were all armed with four 18-pounder field guns.

D (Howitzer) Battery was brought up to six howitzers by the arrival of a section of two from C (Howitzer) Battery of 113 Brigade on 14 January 1917.

In 1916 the 25th Division took part in the attack on Vimy Ridge, Battles of Albert, Bazentin, Pozieres and Ancre Heights which were around the Somme area.

The first quarter of 1917 was spent in the Ploegsteert sector: a relatively quiet time punctuated by frequent raids and minor operations.

The Battles of Messines and Pilkem in June 1917. At the beginning of October 1917, the artillery went into action for a few days near Lievin, in support of 11th (Northern) Division. 25th Division took over the Givenchy sector on 4 October and held it for seven weeks. The Divisional history notes the establishment of a Reinforcement Camp at Ferme du Roi.

Arthur's service records have not survived but it would seem likely that he was wounded during these seven weeks and taken to the hospital at Lijssenthoek where he died of his wounds.

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

Arthur is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and St. Anne's on Sea War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group