Richard Walford





Rank: - Private

Number: - 5539

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 1/7th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 3rd September 1916

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 6 A and 6 B.

Batley News, 16 Sep 1916 (photo

Family Details

Richard was born in Littletown, Liversedge on 17th May 1893 the eldest son of William Henry and Anastasia Walford nee Carton who had married in the October Quarter of 1891 in the Dewsbury Registration area. His elder sister, Anna, was born in 1892 but sadly died in 1896.

Frances Emily, who married Lewis Pindar in 1918, was born in 1895 followed by Cyril 1897 and Jane in 1900 all born in Liversedge. The family was living at Well Street, Flush when the census was taken in 1901.

Owen, who married Amy Noble in 1928, was born in Heckmondwike in 1902 followed by Mary 1904 and William in 1906. James was born in February 1910 but only lived for 11 hours.

In 1911 the family was living at 63A, Common Road which was a four roomed house and Richard was working as a weaver labourer, whilst his father was described as a Brussel Carpet Weaver.

Gerard was born in 1914 but sadly died 1914 and John in 1915.

Richard was well known in the Staincliffe area and had several Heckmondwike associations, being connected to St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and attended St Patrick's School, Darley Street, Heckmondwike and the Temperance Institute, Cemetery Road, Heckmondwike. He was greatly interested in football and was well known in football circles and a few years previously he had captained a junior football eleven popularly known as the" Healey Robins" as well as playing for Heckmondwike seconds. He worked with his father at the Heckmondwike Manufacturing Company before enlisting.

Service Details

Richard enlisted in January 1916 and went to the Front in July 1916, two months before he was killed.

The 1/7th Battalion fought at: -

The Battles of Albert 1st July-13th July, Battle of Bazentin Ridge 14th -17th July and the Battle of Pozieres Ridge 23rd July- 3rd September.

His parents received a letter from his Officer- Captain R. Chambley, in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment:

"I deeply regret to have to inform you that your son was killed in action yesterday September 3rd. Please accept the deepest sympathy of myself and brother officers and comrades in your bereavement. He will be buried just behind the firing line and a suitable inscription will be placed on the grave."

His brother Cyril had been with the Northumberland Fusiliers at the Dardanelles and in Egypt where he had parts of three toes amputated because of frost bite. He came home to England and was a clerk at a recruiting depot in Newcastle in 1916.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group