**Leonard Whitehead**





**Rank: -** Private

**Number: -** 60959

**Regiment: -** Northumberland Fusiliers (Formerly 41675 West Yorks Regiment, 40004 K.O.Y.L.I.) 25th (Tyneside Irish) Bn.

**Died of Wounds from gas poisoning: -** 22/04/1918 Age: 20 years

**Cemetery: -** Winereux Communal Cemetery, France X1.F.2A

# "THE BELOVED SON OF HARRY AND ANNIE ELIZABETH WHITEHEAD HANGING HEATON, BATLEY"

Batley News, 27 Apr 1918, 4 May 1918 (photo)

**Family Details**

Leonard was born in Hanging Heaton on the 24th February 1898 the son of William Henry and Annie Elizabeth Whitehead nee Street who had married on the 10th October 1891at the Wesleyan Chapel, Savile Town. He was baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel, Hanging Heaton on the 6th April 1898 when his parents gave their address as Bromley Street.

William Henry lived in Hanging Heaton before his marriage. Clara was born in September 1892 followed by Horace 1897, Leonard, Alma 1900,

Leonard attended Mill Lane School and was connected with the Common side Wesleyan Chapel. His family lived at 47, Bromley Street, Common Side, Hanging Heaton, Batley. Before he enlisted, he worked at the C.W.S. boot manufacturing store, Heckmondwike.

**Service Details**

Leonard enlisted in the 1st King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on the 3rd October 1916. He changed to the West Yorkshire Regiment and went to France on the 22nd January 1917. He moved to the Northumberland Fusiliers in March /April 1917. A chaplain wrote to his parents to tell them that he was in hospital in Boulogne: -

"*He was gassed pretty badly on April 2nd and his eyesight was affected, but it is slowly coming back. He is expecting to be sent to England soon, so you need not to be too anxious about him."*

Sadly, they received later that week that he had died of his injuries on April 22nd. A Matron wrote: -

"*He has been good and plucky all the time."*

A Chaplain wrote: -

*"He was bright and cheery up to the last and we all thought he was getting better, but the gas seems to have affected his heart. He was buried today in a military cemetery and I officiated at the funeral."*

His only brother, Horace, had been discharged due to shell shock.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group