Harry Wilson





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 232937

Regiment: - Royal Field Artillery "A" Bty. 95th Bde

Killed in Action: - 21st March 1918 aged 19

Memorial: - Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France Panel 7-10

Batley News, 13 Apr 1918 (photo)

Family Details:

Harry was born in Ravensthorpe in 1898, the son of Dewsbury born Mark Wilson and his Batley born wife Emma (Nee Hardwick). The couple had married at St. Thomas's Church, Batley in September 1892.

He was the middle of three children Dan (1895) and Mary (1900).

The family moved to Bath Street, Batley and Harry was a pupil at Batley Parish Church School and also a corporal in the Batley Parish Church Lads' Brigade.

After leaving school he was employed by Messrs. Joseph Auty & Co., Clerk Green Mills, Batley as a middle-minder where his father also worked. The family had moved to Yard 1, Purlwell Lane, Batley.

Harry had a premonition that he would never return home from the war but die for his friends.

Service Details:

Harry enlisted in Dewsbury in May 1917 and embarked for France in November 1917.

The Royal Field Artillery came under the command of the 21st Division and Harry would have been working on the wagon lines prior to the start of 1st Battles of the Somme 1918 which started on the 21st March 1918

In a letter dated 5th April a Battery Sergeant wrote to his mother

"Your son was working in the wagon lines when a shell from a long range gun burst near him, killing him instantly. It is comforting to know he suffered no pain at all. He was a splendid soldier and most popular with all who knew him. If I can give you any further information do not hesitate to write and ask me. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy and those of my battery in your sad bereavement."

His brother, Dan serving with the R A M C had just returned to France after suffering from trench fever.

The Pozieres Memorial Cemetery relates to the crisis of March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across

the former Somme battle fields, and in the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918.

Harry was awarded: - British War Medal 1914-1920 Victory Medal.

Commemorated on: - Batley War Memorial, Batley Parish Church and Pozieres Cemetery along with another 10 killed on the same day.

