Harold Wyles





Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 795740

Regiment: - Royal Horse Artillery

Died of Wounds: - 9th May 1917

Cemetery: - Merville Community Cemetery Extension, Nord, France 111.A.18

"HE SLEEPS WITH ENGLAND'S HEROES IN SAD BUT PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF A LOVING SON"

Batley News, 16 Jun 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Harold was born in Soothill, Batley in 1882 the eldest son of Joseph who hailed from Hunmanby and Isabella Wyles from Stockton on Tees (nee Fullen). The couple was living at Calverley when they married on 17th October 1881.

The couple moved to live in Soothill Lane, Batley before Harold was born. Cuthbert was born in 1884 followed by Edith 1887 and Duncan in 1893.

Joseph was a Deacon at Park Road Baptist Church and was in business in Batley as a wool broker and was very well known. Harold attended Park Road School and later Mill Lane School. After leaving school he assisted his father in the business which moved from Batley to Bradford.

In 1901 the family was living at 208, Gladstone Street, Bradford with Joseph giving his occupation as a wool broker and Harold gave his occupation as a wool warehouseman. Joseph died 1907 and before 1911 the family had moved to live at 19, Norwood Avenue, Shipley in a six-room home. Harold gave his occupation as a chauffeur.

Service Details

When war broke out Harold was a member of the West Riding Brigade, R.F.A. and with them he went on Foreign Service having enlisted at Bradford. He disembarked in France on the 15th April 1915.

According to letters sent by some of his pals he was seriously wounded on May 7th 1917 by a bomb from an aeroplane whilst fetching cigarettes for them and he died two days later.

At the time of his death Duncan was a Gunner with the R.F.A. and had just come out of hospital suffering from shellshock and Pioneer Cuthbert was with the York and Lancasters. Later that year the Batley News reported that Cuthbert had been seriously wounded in the left hand, thigh and leg the latter having to be amputated at a base hospital in France. He had been apprenticed to Messrs. J.S. Newsome, printers, Commercial Street, Batley.

All three men were well known in Batley and had attended Park Road and Mill Lane Schools. At this time their mother had moved once again to live at 6, New Hey Road, Bowling, Bradford.

Harold was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial Addenda 2019.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group