

Harry Steel (Steele)

1893-1919

Harry was born in Dewsbury Moor on 31st May 1893 and baptised on 6th August 1893 at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor. His father was Alfred Steel, a Groom and later a Rag Warehouse Foreman born in Ossett in 1864 and died in 1927. His mother was Sarah (nee Dyson) born in Whitley in 1871 and died in 1912. They were married in 1890. Harry was their only child.

In 1901 the family lived at 2, Back Granville Street, Dewsbury (surname spelt as *Steele*) and in 1911 at 26, Eightlands Road, Dewsbury.

Harry was a single man who worked at Messrs Patterson and Sons Rag Warehouse, Wellington Road, Dewsbury, where his father was a foreman. He was a leader in the Dewsbury Boy Scout Movement.

He enlisted in 1916 in the 1st Garrison Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) with the Service Number 27595 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He did not serve in a combat zone and was stationed on the island of Malta and had not been home for two and a half years. On 17th January 1919 he was admitted to St. Andrew's Military Hospital, Floriana, Malta suffering from influenza and bronchopneumonia (Spanish Flu) and died on 21st January 1919. He was buried in Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta. Harry was awarded the British War Medal.

From the spring of 1915, the hospitals and convalescent depots established on the islands of Malta and Gozo dealt with over 135,000 sick and wounded, chiefly from the campaigns in Gallipoli and Salonika, although increased submarine activity in the Mediterranean meant that fewer hospital ships were sent to the island from May 1917. The Cemetery is located in Triq id-Duluri (Our Lady of Sorrows Street), 2 kilometres south-west of Valletta on the road to Sliema. There are 1,303 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated at Pieta Military Cemetery, including 20 Indian servicemen who were cremated at Lazaretto Cemetery.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library. His surname is spelt as *Steele* on both of the above.

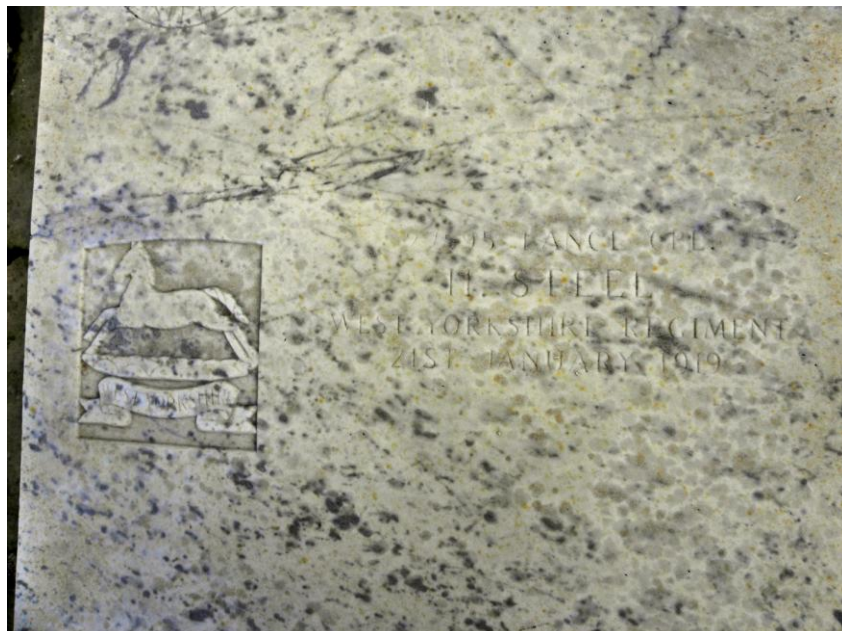
In Memory of
Lance Corporal
H Steel

27595, 1st Garrison Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 21 January 1919

Remembered with Honour
Pieta Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Robert Pike.