



Harry Shepley

1891-1918

Harry was born in Batley on 27th September 1891. His father was Edwin Shepley, a gardener born in Liversedge in 1869, and died in 1960. His mother was Elizabeth Ann (nee Battye) born in Huddersfield in 1891 and died in 1954. They were married in 1891.

Their other children were; Fred, born in 1892 and died in 1892, Leonard, born in 1894, Ella, born in 1895, Alfred, born in 1898, Joseph, born in 1900, Annie, born in 1902, Harriet, born in 1904, Marie, born in 1906 and Edwin, born in 1908. Alfred and Joseph both served in World War 1.

On the 1901 Census the family lived at 27, Low Chapel Fold, Staincliffe, Batley and in 1911 at 94, Healds Road, Dewsbury.

Harry attended Staincliffe Church Day School and Staincliffe Baptist Sunday school. He had his own Greengrocery Business with connections in Staincliffe and Dewsbury Moor. He was married to Florence Bentley (born in Cleckheaton in 1892 and died in 1965) on January 19th 1918 at St. John's Church, Cleckheaton. They lived at Aspen House, 12, Wesley Street, Cleckheaton and did not have any children. Florence was remarried in 1930 to a Walter Senior (born 1903 and died in 1941).

He enlisted on 24th May 1916 and there are conflicting entries regarding his service records; Soldiers Died in the Great War states King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and later the Northumberland Fusiliers. His Medal Award Roll and Medal Index Card state 13th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, then the 1st/5th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. What is certain is that at the time of his death he served as Rifleman 43759 in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, attached to the 1st/16th London Regiment. He was sent to the Western Front in the September 1916 but after seven months active service he suffered a shrapnel wound in the side and was returned to England to recover and following his marriage he returned to the front in March 1918. He was killed in action in France by a shell burst on 28th August 1918; his remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Vis-en-Artois Memorial is the back drop to Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery. It bears the names of over 9,000 men of the forces of Great Britain and Ireland and South Africa; who fell in the period from 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave.

Harry is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the Spenborough War Memorial in Cleckheaton Memorial Park.

In Memory of

Rifleman

Harry Shepley

43759, King's Royal Rifle Corps who died on 28 August 1918 Age 26

Son of Edwin and Elizabeth Ann Shepley, of 94, Healds View, Healds Rd., Dewsbury; husband of Florence Shepley, of Aspen House, 12, Wesley St., Cleckheaton, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

