



Harry Lockwood

1891 - 1916

Harry was born in Darton near Barnsley in 1891. His father was Robert Lockwood, a coal miner born in Horbury in 1862 and died in 1895. His mother was Martha (née Taylor) born in Thornhill Lees in 1859 and died in 1930. They were married on 16th October 1880 at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill.

Their other children were; Ernest, born in 1881 and died in 1882, Annie, born in 1884 and died in 1919, Linda, born in 1886, John William, born in 1888 and Joe, born in 1894.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Fountain Square, Darton. Robert died in Darton in 1895 when only 33 years of age, leaving Martha to bring up her young family. They returned to Dewsbury where Harry attended Boothroyd Lane Council School. Martha supported her family working as a blanket weaver. In 1901 they lived at Lacy's Yard, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury. In 1911 the girls were married and the boys, including Harry, were working as coal miners. They lived at 91, Tweedale Street, Dewsbury

Harry was a single man who was a keen footballer, playing initially for St. John's F.C. and subsequently at Thornhill Road Juniors F.C. at Centre-Half.

He enlisted in 1915 into the 3rd/4th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was transferred to the 17th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) serving as Private 17/1644. He was deployed as a bomber when he was killed by a sniper near Laventie in Northern France on 16th May 1916 and was buried in St. Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoué, Pas-de-Calais, France. Harry was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

According to newspapers, only shortly before his death Harry had received a promotion to Lance-Corporal, although the Medal Rolls and Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show his rank as a Private.

St. Vaast Post Military Cemetery lies near the village of Richebourg-L'Avoué, 9 kilometres north-east of Bethune. The village was held by British forces from the autumn of 1914 until it was overrun by German units advancing west during the great Spring Offensive in April 1918. It was recaptured by Commonwealth soldiers in September 1918 and remained in Allied hands until the end of the war. The village was less than two kilometres from the front-lines trenches and was routinely shelled by German artillery. During the Battle of Festubert in May 1915, British soldiers began burying their fallen comrades in an old orchard near a forward dressing station which was located at the terminus of a trench tramway between the hamlet of Richebourg St. Vaast and La Croix Barbet. The cemetery was used by fighting units serving in the front-line and field ambulances until July 1917 and is the final resting place of over 70 men of the South Downs Pals battalion who were killed at the Battle of Boar's Head on 30th June 1916. In April and May 1918, the Germans buried 90 of their dead in the south-east end of the cemetery. There are now almost 800 Commonwealth soldiers of the First World War buried or commemorated at St. Vaast Post. Special memorials have been erected to three British soldiers buried in the cemetery whose graves cannot now be traced.

Harry is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of

Private

H Lockwood

17/1644, 17th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 16 May 1916

Remembered with Honour

St. Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoue



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Richard Houghton.