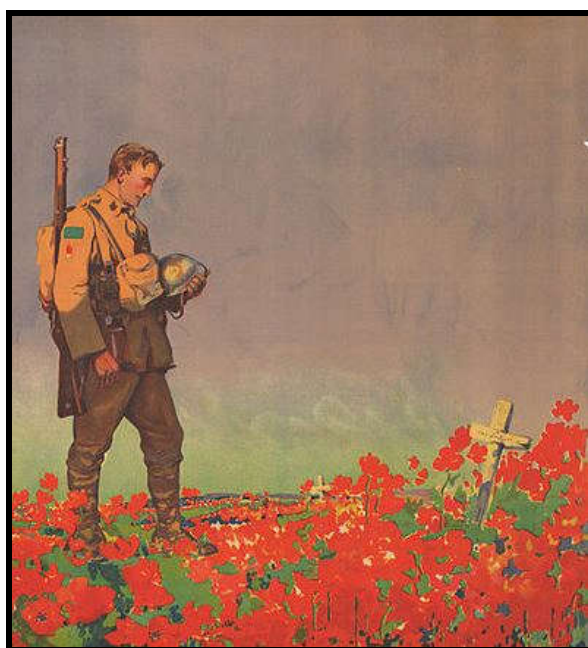


Pte Alfred DYER (1882 – 1914)
(King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry)



Alfred Dyer was born in Wakefield in 1882 and raised by his mother Harriett and step father John Winrow. In 1901 he was living at Beauregarde Street in the Flush area of Liversedge. In 1902 he married Annie Armitage at Dewsbury Parish Church and lived at 56 Cullingworth Street Buildings. In 1906 Alfred and Annie had a son, William Albert, who died a few months after he was born. They had three further children; John born 1910, Sarah born 1912 but died in 1913 and Amelia born 1914. Alfred was a miner and worked at Crawshaw and Warburton Ltd, also known as Shaw Cross Pit. In the 1911 Census he is recorded living with his family at 6 Gladstone Terrace, Westborough, Dewsbury.

At the time of his death in 1914 his home address was 97 Rothery's Yard, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr. He had previously served with the Reservists in the KOYLI and went to war with his friend and colleague Private Taylor who lived in the Springfield's area of Dewsbury. They went out with the original British Expeditionary Force and took part in the fighting around Mons. Both were reported missing in August 1914 following the retreat from Mons.

It was to be two years before Annie finally received a letter in 1916 from the War Office.

They had made exhaustive enquiries since 1914 and had now been forced to conclude that the two men had lost their lives on the 26th August 1914. This would now make Alfred Dyer the first man on Batley War Memorial to have died in France.

Mrs. Dyer and Mrs. Taylor both received a letter from Lord Kitchener conveying the sympathy of the King and Queen. Annie Dyer was left with 2 small children to bring up. In 1916 she placed a heart-breaking Obituary in the Batley News

Killed in Action. Pte. Alfred Dyer, August 26th, 2nd Battalion King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry at Mons, aged 32 years.

Sleep on, dear husband, in a far off grave,

A grave we will never see

But as long as life and memory last

We will remember thee.

Could we have raised your dying head,

Or heard your last farewell,

The grief would not have been so hard

For those who loved thee well.

Your loving Wife and Children.

In Memoriam.

Annie never re-married and died in 1939. Alfred Dyer is remembered on the Roll of Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

Researcher

Susan White, Batley History Group, May 2014