

L'Cpl. Henry FIELD (1890 – 1915)
(King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry)



Henry (Harry) Field was born in Staincliffe, Batley in 1890. His parents were John Field and Emma Sarah Newsome who married in 1889 at Christ Church, Staincliffe. The first few years of their married life was spent with Emma's parents in Halifax Road, Staincliffe, Batley, but by the 1901 Census they had moved to Wood Street, Off Wellington Street, Batley.

On the 1911 Census Henry's parents are still living at Wood Street, in two rooms. The Census details show that Emma had given birth to thirteen children but only five had survived; Henry, two sisters Mary Elizabeth (1893), Beatrice (1897) and two brothers James (1906) and Fred (1910).

Henry worked as a Hurrier in a coal mine for Mr S. Goodhall of Soothill before joining the Territorial Army in 1910. At the time of the 1911 Census Henry was serving in Ireland. He was later stationed in Singapore and then sent to China and was there when WW1 broke out. In a letter home from China after the commencement of the war he wrote ...

"I do not know what you think about the Great War but out here we are taking it very seriously. Five of us are guarding some Germans who tried to escape and if

any of them attempt it again ----- ! These fellows have been used to paying 90 dollars for a dinner but now they have to eat just the same as us. This war is affecting us just as if we were on the spot. We caught 52 Germans trying to escape but they were caught and brought back. I think Germany will be sorry she ever went to war with England and I am ready to do my bit.”

He arrived back in England shortly before Christmas 1914 and was sent to the front in February 1915. He held a certificate for efficiency in his department and was an expert machine gunner. He was well known for his cheerfulness and kind heartedness.

His family in Wood Street received official intimation that Henry had been killed in action on the 8th May, 1915.

L/Corporal Henry Field 10321, 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, is Remembered with Honour at Ypres Town Cemetery Extension.

Researcher

Susan White, Batley History Group, March 2015