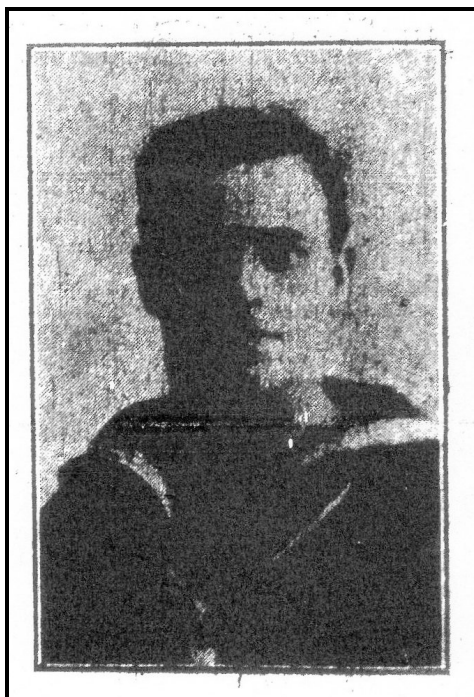


Able Seaman Joseph W DEWS (1895 - 1915)

("Hawke" BN - RN Volunteer Reserve)



Joseph Whitworth Dews was born in 1895 to Joe (Joseph) Dews and Maria Howden. Joe and Maria had married at All Saints Parish Church, Batley on the 11th of October, 1890. There were six other children in the family, John (1890), Jane Ann (1897), Thomas (1902), Herbert Whitworth (1905), Polly (1908) and a half brother Fred Howden (1887).

Joe, the father, was a Coal Hewer on the 1901 Census. However, in 1911 he was in the Ida Convalescent Home in Horsforth and his occupation is now given as a Sewing Machine Agent. Maria and the children are living in three rooms at 4, Woodwell Street, Batley. Joseph Whitworth Dews was a Scale Picker (picking off flaky surface deposits at a colliery).

Joseph William Dews enlisted in the armed forces in 1914 but then transferred to the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserves. He disembarked to the Dardanelles in April 1915. He died on the 19th of June, 1915 and the following report appeared in the Batley News...

'The parents of Able Seaman J W Dews, Woodwell Street, Batley have been informed by the War Office that he was killed in action on June 19th in the Dardanelles after being there about two months. He joined the Army soon after war broke out, enlisting in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but was soon transferred to the Naval Division (Hawk Battalion).

He spent eight months in training in England at various places, including the Crystal Palace, Walmer and Deal. Writing on June 9th from the Dardanelles, Dews said, 'Just

a letter, hoping you are in the best of health, as I am. We have just had a terrible battle, but I have come out safe. I should have been better pleased, however, if John Gill [his friend] had come out as well as I have.'

Seaman Dews, who was 20 years of age, was before the war always an enthusiast in all kinds of sport, including boxing, wrestling, football and running. He won several prizes for pedestrianism* and until he enlisted was a playing member of Healey Association Football Club. For about eight years he was associated with Batley Troops of Boy Scouts and was awarded six efficiency badges. He was a member of Captain the Reverend F. W. Butt - Thompson's Scouts. Dews attended Park Road Baptist School and visited London and Birmingham with the Scouts. He worked at Messrs. J. Critchley and Sons, West End Colliery, as a surface -hand.'

*Pedestrianism was a 19th-century form of competitive walking, often professional and funded by wagering from which the modern sport of race walking developed.

Able Seaman Joseph William Dews KW/364, Hawke Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve is Remembered with Honour at the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Researcher:

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