

## George Arthur Hargreaves



**Rank:** - Private

**Number:** - 307267 (formerly 27057 KOYLI)

**Regiment:** - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**Died of illness:** - 26<sup>th</sup> February 1918 aged 24

**Cemetery:** - Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium XXV11.  
E.16

Batley News, 30 Mar 1918. Batley Reporter, 22 Mar 1918 (photo)

## **Family Details**

George Arthur was born in Batley in 1893 the son of George and Annie Hargreaves (nee Waring). He was followed by Florrie (1896) and Maud (1900). The three children were baptised at Holy Trinity on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1900 when they were living at 7, Newsome's Buildings, Batley Carr. George was a coal miner.

In 1911 the family was living in a two roomed house at 17, Carlisle Street, Batley Carr with the additions of Squire (1902), Ella (1905), Stanley (1908) and Leonard (1910). There was another child who had died in infancy.

In 1911 George Arthur was working as a farm servant at Forest Farm, Papplewick, Notts.

The family moved to 52, King Street, Batley Carr and the well-known, highly respected, George returned to work as a mill hand at Cloth Hall Mill, Dewsbury.

## **Service Details**

George Arthur enlisted in 1916 when the Duke of Wellington's was part of the 147<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Division.

They took part in the Battles of Albert, Bazentin Ridge, Pozieres Ridge and Flers-Courcelette in 1916 followed by the operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush) and the Battle of Poelcapelle in 1917.

He was on duty until 1.30 am on February 26<sup>th</sup> and when relieved walked to his dugout laughing and joking with Sgt. A. Brooke. Two hours later a sentry woke up the sergeant and told him Hargreaves was seriously ill. George was gasping for breath and ten minutes later he had died.

In his last letter home, Private Hargreaves said: -

*"By the time you receive this letter I shall be in the front line – but never mind have good faith the as I have – and then I shall pull through safe and sound. You know we have only one look to and that is our Lord. Cheer up! Better days in store ... just says a little prayer for us all and May God keep us all safe.*

Sgt A. Brooke wrote to Mr. & Mrs. Hargreaves: - *"I have a very unpleasant duty to perform in writing to you about the death of your son which occurred on February 26<sup>th</sup> and it came as a great surprise to me and all the boys of the*

*platoon. He appeared to be in the best of health and never complained of feeling ill. He was on duty at 1.30 am when I relieved him and came with him to his dugout. He laughed and joked on the way. The sentry woke me up at 3.30 am and told me your son was seriously ill. When I arrived, he had been gasping for breath and he was only ten minutes from starting to be dead. May God give you strength to bear this sad blow? You will have some consolation in knowing he did his duty and did it well. "*

George was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of  
Batley History Group