

BEARDSWORTH, HARRY 7887 Private 7th Company

THE MACHINE GUN CORPS (INFANTRY)

Born Leyland Enlisted Preston Living Leyland

Killed in Action France / Flanders 1st July 1916

Formerly 22507 The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

Ref : 'Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', Part 5.

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser Sat. 1 September 1917

Information has been received by Mr Thomas Beardsworth, Clarence Street, Leyland, of the death of his two sons: Privates R. and H. Beardsworth.

Private Harry Beardsworth (23) joined the Scottish Rifles November 1st, 1915 and was afterwards transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was reported wounded and missing on 1st July 1916 and now presumed dead. He worked at Wood-Milne.

Mr Beardsworth has two other sons serving in the army: Pte John Beardsworth at present wounded and in hospital in France, and Pte Thomas Beardsworth in the R.F.C. serving at Leeds. (The 'Guardian' account of this date reports the deaths of both brothers, Harry and Robert. I have 'adjusted' the account for the two brothers accordingly. The photographs of both Harry and Robert appear in the 'Guardian' of 15th Sept. 1917)

Preston Guardian 1st September 1917

This report only adds the full home address of Harry Beardsworth:- 1 Clarence Street, Leyland.

Pte. Beardsworth's name appears on the following local memorials:-

War Memorial, Church Road, Leyland
St. Ambrose Memorial, Moss Lane, Leyland
Mural Plaque in St. Ambrose, Leyland

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Harry Beardsworth is buried in the:-

LONSDALE CEMETERY, FRANCE

Grave Ref: Plot I Row C Grave 4 No next-of-kin information

This cemetery is located at Authuille, 5 km north of Albert on the D151 road to Grandcourt.

Continued

In April 1999 I visited the Lonsdale Cemetery with my brother, sister and her husband when we

were staying in Authuille. I photographed the cemetery and grave of Harry Beardsworth for his niece, Amy Dugdale of Farington.

Although it is obvious that Harry Beardsworth was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, I have yet to find any records of the Machine Gun Corps, so I have been unable to find where the 7th Company M.G.C. were deployed on that fateful day.

Leyland St. Andrew's Baptismal Register

Bapt: 15th August 1894, Harry, son of Thomas and Mary Jane Beardsworth of Leyland.

Beardsworth, Harry.

W.E. Waring 2003