

BEARDSWORTH, ROBERT 27638 Private 17th Battalion 89th Brigade 30th Division

THE KING'S (LIVERPOOL REGIMENT)

Born Leyland Enlisted Southport Living Leyland

Killed in Action France / Flanders 31 July 1917

Ref: 'Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', Part 13.

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser Sat. 1st September 1917

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

Private R. Beardsworth, King's Liverpool Regiment, joined up on April 25th, 1915. He was 21 years of age and was invalided home in Dec.1916 returning again to France in June last. He was reported killed in action July 31st. He worked at the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company. 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' 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 Robert 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

With no-known-grave, Robert Beardsworth's name is on the:-

YPRÈS (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, BELGIUM

His name appears on Panel 4 or Panel 6. No next-of-kin information.

Yprès (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin and Courtrai, and bears the names of 55,000 men who were lost without trace during the defence of the Yprès Salient in the First World War.

Continued

Leyland St. Ambrose Baptismal Register

July 13th, 1896 – Bapt: Robert, son of Thomas and Mary Jane Beardsworth. Born 8th June 1896.

A Record of the Battles and Engagements of the British Armies in France and Flanders, 1914-1918', by Captain E. A. James.

The date of Robert Beardsworth's death, 31st July 1917, was the start of the 'Battles of Ypres' which only ended on the 10th of November in that year. The 30th Division, of which the 17th King's was a part, was involved in just one engagement during that time: the 'Battle of Pilckem'— 31st July to 2nd August. Presumably, it was on the first day of this battle that Robert Beardsworth lost his life.

Family information was from his niece, Amy Dugdale of Farington.

Beardsworth, Robert.

W.E. Waring 2003