

**BERRY, WILLIAM JAMES 1620 Trooper 10th Brigade 4th Division**

**HOUSEHOLD BATTALION**

**Born Leyland Enlisted Chorley Living Leyland**

**Died of Wounds France / Flanders 12th April 1917**

Ref: 'Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', Part 1.

**Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser Sat. 28th April 1917**

Official intimation has been received by Mrs Berry, Turpin Green, Leyland that her husband Trooper W. Berry of the Household Cavalry Brigade was killed in action in France on April 12th. He enlisted less than 6 months ago and had only been in France 3 weeks when he was killed. He was 33 years of age and a stonemason. He was formerly connected with the Leyland Fire Brigade.

**Preston Guardian Sat. 28th April 1917**

A similar report to that in the 'Guardian' above, but with a photograph of the deceased.

**W. J. Berry'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**

William James Berry is buried in the:-

**AUBIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, FRANCE**

Grave Ref: Plot II Row A Grave 51. The husband of Mary Berry, 23 Turpin Green Lane, Leyland. Age 34. Aubigny-en-Artois is a village approximately 15 km north-west of Arras on the road to St. Pol.

**Leyland St. Andrew's Baptismal Register**

11th Nov. 1883 Bapt. William (?), Son of William and (?) Berry of Leyland, Stonemason.  
(entry difficult to read)

**Leyland St. Andrew's Parish Magazine January 1908**

Married at St. Ambrose: 14th Dec. 1907 William James Berry to Mary Hasleden of Farington.

**Continued**

**The Household Battalion.** Formed at Knightsbridge Barracks on 1st Sept. 1916 as an infantry

battalion with personnel from the Household Cavalry Reserve Regiments. 9th Nov. 1916 to France. 17th Nov. 1916 to 10th Brigade 4th Division. 10th Feb. 1918 disbanded in France sending drafts to Household Cavalry and Foot Guards. Ref: 'British Regiments – 1914-1918', Brigadier E. A. James.

**Note 1:-** At the time of Trooper Berry's death, the 4th Division, of which the Household Battalion was a part, was fighting in the 'First Battle of the Scarpe', 9th-14th April, 1917: this was the second battle of the 'Arras Offensive' (9th April to 15th May, 1917). Presumably, this was where William James received the fatal wound from which he died on the 12th of April.

**Note 2:-** The address given in the C.W.G.C. details, 23 Turpin Green Lane, became – after the re-numbering of Leyland in the mid-1930s – the present day No. 63 Turpin Green Lane.

**Berry, William James.**

**W.E. Waring 2003**