

HARRISON LEETHAM STOREY



12th September 1916

1894-1916 Age 22

Second Lieutenant, 'C' Company 1st-6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Territorial Force).

Harrison Storey was born in Shipley on 7th March 1894. His father Thomas Henry Storey was originally from Manchester, where his father was a brass founder, however he grew up in West Yorkshire which was the home of his mother Bathia, nee Wood. He started work as a warehouseman, going on to become a cloth buyer and then a partner in the Bradford cloth exporting company of Storey, Wagenmann & Co. In 1888 Thomas married Harriet Martha Leetham, daughter of a wealthy farmer from Snaith. They had five children, two of whom died in childhood.

Harrison was the second of their surviving children. He went to Bradford Grammar in 1906, when he was eleven. His academic record in his first two years was unimpressive, however in the Fourth Form he improved markedly and he won an Honourable Mention for the Form Prize. Nevertheless, he left the school in July 1909 when he was fifteen and was sent to the College at Arras in France. By April 1911, when he was seventeen, he had returned to Bradford, where he worked as an assistant to his father. Harrison also joined the Old Boys' Company of the Bradford Territorial Battalion, in which he was described as taking '*a keen interest.*'

Soon after war broke out, Harrison applied for a commission, which he received on 9th March 1915. Somewhat unusually, he was posted to the same battalion in which he had served as an ordinary soldier. When the battalion proceeded to the Western Front as part of 49th West Riding Division in April, Storey remained at the depot in Bradford—he landed in France in July, and he may be the unnamed officer who joined the battalion near Ypres with a draft of twenty-five Other Ranks on 17th August. Otherwise, there is no mention in the 1st-6th Battalion's War Diary of Second Lieutenant Storey, and so it has not been possible to identify the day he received the wounds from which he would later die. The Bradfordian reported in March 1916 that he had been seriously wounded, and this is most likely to have occurred late in 1915 when the battalion was



heavily engaged near Ypres.

The Bradford Weekly Telegraph carried details of Harrison's funeral following his death on Tuesday 12th September at Roehampton Convalescent Hospital in Surrey. The newspaper reported that he was dangerously wounded some time earlier and his father had been summoned to the front to visit him. He was later transferred to the Empire Hospital, London, but his wounds were so serious that there was little hope that he would survive. He died in his sleep early in the morning. His body was taken to Undercliffe Cemetery in Bradford, where he was interred with full military honours following a service at Heaton Church. Several of his comrades were able to attend as they were at home, some recuperating from wounds. Storey was single man aged twenty-two. He left an estate valued at nearly £500.



Acknowledgements:

Storey's photo is courtesy of the O.B.A. from the Roll of Honour. His biography is based on the records researched using Ancestry.com, accessed 4-9-2016 and 5-9-2016, with the addition of material from the B.G.S. Annual Reports published Midsummer 1906, 1907, 1908 and The Bradfordian Vol. XXI, No. 124, p.3; and the account of his funeral from the Bradford Weekly Telegraph (microfilm consulted in the Bradford Local Studies Library). I have not been able to consult his Officer File in the National Archives. His grave is in the family plot at Undercliffe Cemetery, location E.C.50. The photo below shows Storey during training. It is from the Brocklehurst collection of images of the 1st-6th West Yorkshire Battalion, and was supplied to me through the kindness of Tricia Platts.

This biography was researched and composed by Nick Hooper, September 2016
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