



Thame Remembers

Gunner Harry Howland



Born in 1875, Harry Howland was the son of William Howland and Caroline Louisa (nee Picketts), living in High Street, Thame. He had ten brothers and sisters. His father William died in 1882 and by 1891 Harry, living in 12 Pound Street with his mother and three of his brothers and sisters, was employed as an errand boy. By 1901 Harry had moved to Edmonton, Middlesex, where he was employed as a butcher but by 1911 he had moved to Haywards Heath, Sussex and was working as an attendant at the Public Lunatic Asylum. He married Emma Elizabeth Foreman on the 9th October 1911 before moving to Hanwell, Middlesex, where he took up a job as a gardener.

Attesting for service under the Derby Scheme in November 1915 at the age of 40 years and 2 months, it was not until 1st August 1916 that Harry was enlisted into the Royal Garrison Artillery at No 1 Depot, Fort Burgoyne, Dover. He embarked for France on 10th March 1917 and after a short spell with 183rd Siege Battery, followed by a short stay in hospital due to illness, he was posted to the 47th Siege Battery on the 8th June. The siege battery was equipped with 4x 8" howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire.

The 47th Siege Battery war diary, reports that Gunner 111402 Harry Howland was killed, and five other men wounded by hostile shell fire on the 4th October 1917. The Battery was at Verbranden-Molen providing some of the artillery barrage for the infantry attack at the Battle of Broodseinde, part of the Third Battle of Ypres. Gunner Howland was buried in the Huts Cemetery on the road between Dickebusch and Brandhoek, an area which was used by field ambulances during the allied offensive on this front.

Although born in Thame, Harry Howland is not currently commemorated on the town war memorial.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered
to his grave on
10th February 2018
by
Michael Hutson**

