

ALFRED LUDLAM ILLINGWORTH

51 BATTERY 39 BRIGADE ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

Birth Record for Alfred Illingworth

No.	When and where born	When Baptized	Christian Name	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Parish Abode	Signature of Officiating Clergyman
894	Jan 7 1889 Bolton Rd	Feb 5 1889	Alfred	Walter Illingworth	Mary Jane Illingworth	Boiler Maker	431 Bolton Rd	J. Sedg
895	Jan 27 1889 176 Bolton Rd	Mar 12 1889	William	William Dawson	Abigail	Boiler Maker	176 Bolton Rd	J. Sedg
896	Jan 27 1889 176 Bolton Rd	Mar 12 1889	William	William Dawson	Abigail	Boiler Maker	176 Bolton Rd	J. Sedg

Alfred Ludlam Illingworth was born on January 7th 1889 to Walter and Mary Jane Illingworth (nee Ludlam) of Bolton Road Bradford (likely to be No.613). He was baptised on 5th February. Alfred was their youngest child and their first son after six daughters. The family is listed as being at 613 Bolton Road on the 1891 Census. Mary Jane died within three years and Walter remarried to Fanny Nettlem Moore, herself a widow with no children, in 1893. The family were still residing at 613 Bolton Road for the 1901 Census. In 1911, Alfred is still living at home with his parents and one sister at 93 Tennyson Place, just off Bolton Road, the family living here through to the Great War period. Alfred in 1911 was still single and is listed as a Printer.

The Bradford Roll of Honour shows that Alfred had joined up at the start of the war in September 1914. He chose to serve in the Royal Field Artillery, regimental no. 27971 as a Gunner. He served with 51 Battery, 39 Brigade Royal Field Artillery as part of the British 1st Division that has been one of the first units of the BEF to land in France in August 1914. His Medal Index Card tells us that Alfred went to France on 10th May 1915.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	REMARKS	EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT
Walter Illingworth	Head	52	M	Married	Printer			
Mary Jane Illingworth	Wife	50	F	Married				
Alfred Illingworth	Son	22	M	Single	Printer			

Alfred's Service Records have not survived and both his Medal Rolls for the 1914-15 Star and War and Victory Medals offer no further information. At the time of Alfred's death, the 39th Bde were operating north of Ypres in the Boesinghe area.

1911 Census Record for the Illingworth family





Gunner
27971

Alfred L. Illingworth

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

Late of 93 Tennyson Place

6th November 1917

The War Diary of 51 Battery, 39th Bde RFA provides the following information:

“31/10/1917 – Leaving Wagon Lines at 6am. Two sections of 51st and 54th Batteries took over positions of guns (stripped) at C.d.50.02 and C.d.08.00. respectively from 291 Bde RFA.

1/11/1917 – 1 OR of 51st Battery wounded by artillery fire

2/11/1917 – Lt Col W.G.H. Bell posted to Brigade from 40th Battery RFA

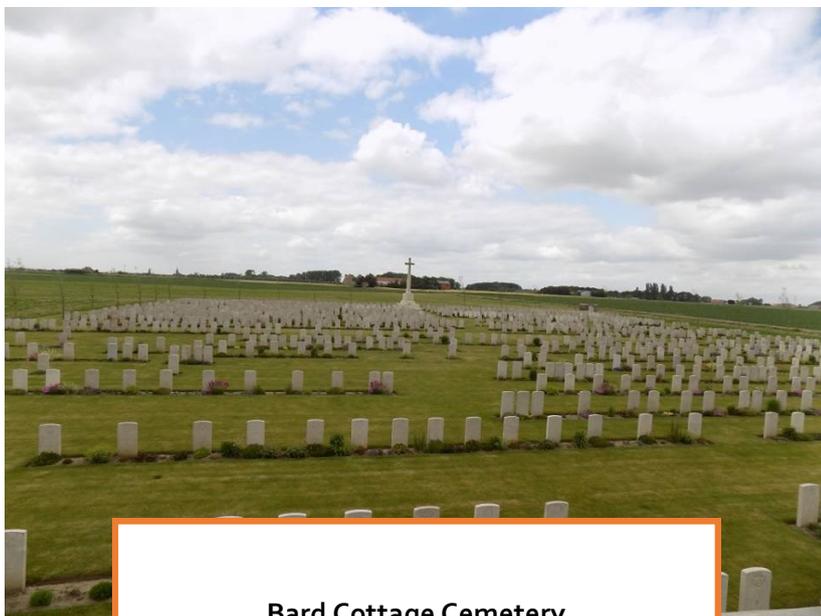
5/11/1917 – 2 OR’s of 51st Battery RFA killed by artillery fire

7/11/1917 – The Brigade moved from Wagon Lines near POPERINGHE to new lines near BRELIN. 3 OR’s of 54th Battery evacuated sick (gas)”

Officially, Alfred L. Illingworth was killed in action with 51st Battery on 6/11/1917. However it is considered that his death represents one of the two OR’s reported killed in the War Diary on 5/11/1917.

Alfred is buried In Bard Cottage cemetery in grave VI.B.16. Next to him is another member of 51st Battery, 39th Bde RFA with the same date of death, this being:

155146 Gunner Charles Henry Bason, aged 22 years, son of John and Sarah Emma of Heblands Farm, Bishop’s Castle, Shropshire.

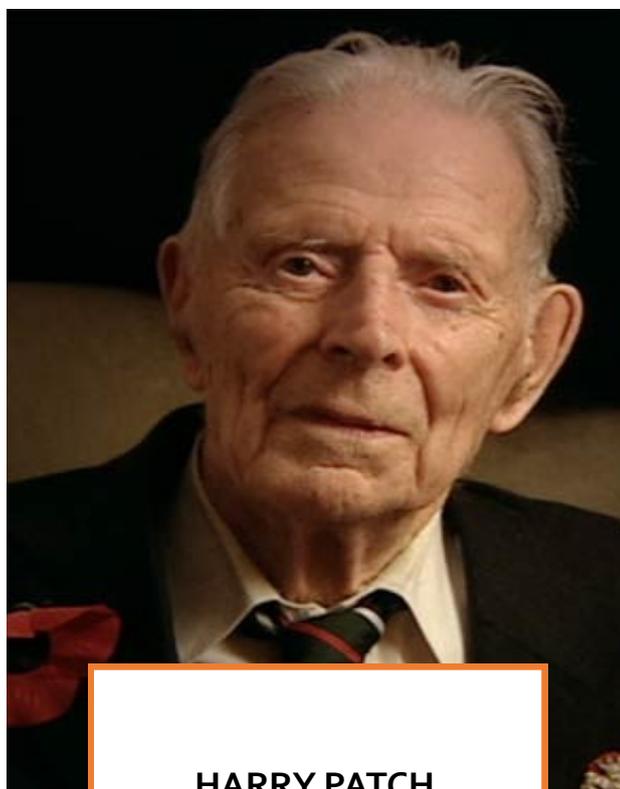


Bard Cottage Cemetery



We can learn something of the camaraderie amongst artillery teams, like the one Alfred Illingworth fought in, by studying the experiences of other soldiers.

Probably the most famous of these is HARRY PATCH a machine-gunner with C Company of the 7th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.



HARRY PATCH

Harry's experiences were recounted in an interview with the BBC to mark his 100th birthday;

"There were five of us in the team—there was number one on the gun, there was me with the spare parts and they were carrying the ammunition. You were a team. Each knew where the other came from and what their lives had been, where they were educated. We belonged to each other if you understand."

Three of Harry's comrades were killed at Ypres in 1917.

" I shall never forget the three I lost. That upsets me more than anything. Eighty years after I always remember it."

When Harry Patch passed away on 25 July 2009 we lost our last living link to the trenches of World War 1, but the legacy of Harry's generation will last forever.