

## ROBERT HENRY TAYLOR

1914 Star and Bar

8100 Pte R.H.TAYLOR.

2/York: R.

British War Medal

8100 Pte R.H.TAYLOR.

Allied Victory Medal

York.R.

Army Medal Office rolls confirm the award of the 1914 Star and Bar, giving his date of disembarkation as 5 October 1914.

He was born 10 April 1886 at Rockcliffe Yard, East Tadcaster, the son of Edward Taylor, a waterman, and his wife Martha Ann (née Farrar). When he enlisted at Thornaby 17 April 1905 he stated his age as 19 years, and his occupation as labourer. He was 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighed 124 pounds, had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair.

He was killed in action 22 October 1914, when 21st Brigade withstood an attack by the German 54th Reserve Division advancing from Becelaere. C J Atkinson described how the Germans '*had bombarded [the 21st Brigade's] trenches mercilessly all the morning...and the trenches were terribly knocked about, men being buried and rifles put out of action. The destruction of the reserve trenches increased the difficulty of keeping the firing-line supplied with ammunition; there had been no time to dig communication trenches, and parties bringing ammunition up by hand lost heavily in crossing the open.*' 2/Yorkshire Regiment lost 27 men killed that day.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he was the son of Edward and Martha Ann Taylor of 19 Westfield Terrace, Tadcaster, and was 28 years old when he died. He is commemorated on Panel 33 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. *Soldiers Died In The Great War* records that he was born and enlisted in Tadcaster.

(Refs: WO 329/2440 p 136; WO 329/953 p 480

Regimental enlistment records, Richmond

General Register Office

*The Seventh Division* [Atkinson] p 43)