

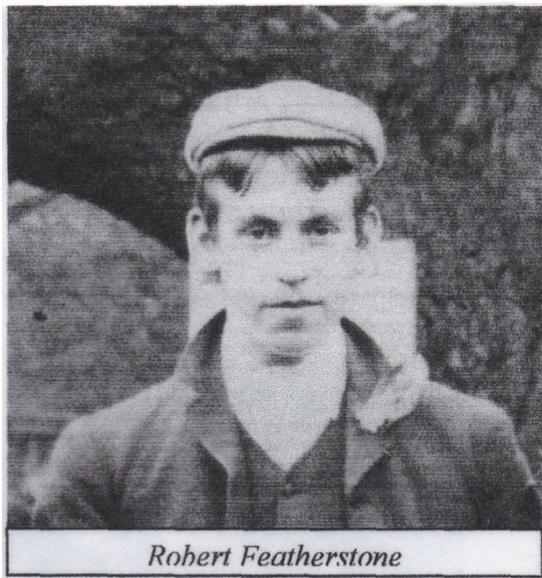
Robert Henry Featherstone

Private 23369 - Age 24

9th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment

Killed in Action Thursday, July 20, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme

Buried - Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, Somme, France - Plot VI, H5
Commemorated - Harthill War Memorial, and on the Kiveton Park Colliery War Memorial



Robert Featherstone

Born November 1891, in the old cottage on Dishwell Lane, now called Yew Tree Cottage. He was the eleventh child in a family of thirteen. Baptised 10th January 1892 at All Hallows Church, Harthill. Son of William and Jane Featherstone and lived with his brother William at Harthill. He worked at Kiveton Park colliery.

When war broke out in 1914, Robert was anxious to join up, but was dissuaded by his family because he was in a reserved occupation, mining.

By 1916, after receiving many letters from friends who had joined the Army he joined up. After six weeks training in England, he was sent to France to fight. In the same year Robert was killed in the Battle of the Somme. His family were notified of this and were sent the few belongings found on his body. Shortly after Robert's death his dog Nell, who had pined for her master, went missing and was found dead on the first pond bank.

Worksop Guardian - 18th August 1916.

"Harthill Soldier Missing

As briefly reported in our last issue, Private Robert Featherstone, - 23369 - 9th Yorks and Lancs, is reported by the War Office to be missing as from July 20th. He last wrote home on July 18th, saying that he was alright. He had just come out of the trenches for a rest, but expected to be in action very shortly again and two days later he was reported missing.

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He formerly belonged to the West Riding's but on arriving in France was transferred to the Yorks and Lancs.

He had only been in France a month. Since he last wrote home, no news has been received of him other than the War Office notification. It was his custom to write home and to his friends several times a week. Any information is eagerly awaited by his brothers and sisters.

It was later confirmed that he had been killed in action on 20th July 1916."