Albert Ainley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 35678

Regiment: - Northumberland Fusiliers (Formerly 5513 KOYLI) 21st (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 28th November 1916 Aged: 26 years

Cemetery: - Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France 111.A.189

Batley News, 9 Dec 1916 (photo). Batley Reporter, 1 Dec 1916

Family Details

Albert was born in Batley in 1890 the youngest son of Joseph and Susannah Ainley nee Clegg. The couple had married in 1871.

In 1891 the family which included siblings George William 1872, Grace Annie 1873, Jim 1879 and Fred 1887 was living at 24, Healey Lane, Batley. Joseph was working as a carrier.

In 1901 the family had moved to live at 64, Healey Lane, Batley and Joseph was a general carrier working on his own account. Jim had died in August1897 aged 18 years.

Albert attended Healey Council School and was associated with Primitive Methodist Chapel at the top of Heckmondwike.

In 1911 the family which included Joseph, who was working as a rag grinder machine attendant, Susannah, Grace and Albert were living in a three roomed home at 188, Healey Lane, Batley. Albert was a mill clerk, he had first worked in the office of J.T. & J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mill and later at Cheapside Mill before he enlisted.

Albert was also a well-known member of the Healey Cricket Club.

Service Details

Albert enlisted in March 1916 into the K.O.Y.L.I. but was transferred to the Northumberland Fusiliers and was wounded the first time he went into the trenches.

The 21st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers was from June 1915 under orders of 102nd Brigade in 34th Division. They landed in France in January 1916. They took part in the following battles on the Somme in 1916
The Battle of Albert including the capture of Scots and Sausage Redoubts 1st -
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge23rd July – 3rd September

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (only 103rd Brigade and the Divisional Pioneers) 15th -22nd September

Albert was severely wounded in the chest the first time he went into the trenches. He was sent to a Casualty Clearing Station so it was probably after the last battle mentioned above.

A Chaplain wrote to his parents: -

"I have seen him several times since his admission here and every time I saw him he was trying bravely and cheerfully to try to make the best of everything. A Church of England chaplain has been able to tell me of his last moments. His smile and attempts of cheerfulness were bright parts of my work in the casualty clearing station and I hope the knowledge that he died without fear or sadness may be some comfort to you all. He has given his life for his country and has been faithful unto death. I pray that God will be your exceeding comfort in your sad loss. With deepest sympathy."

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Albert is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe; Common Road Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group