Samuel Atkins





Rank: - Private

Number: - 47708

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1/4th Battalion

Missing presumed killed in Action: - 4/04/1918 Age: 41 years

Missing presumed dead by War Office: - 24/7/1919

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 108 to 111

Batley Reporter, 10 Jan 1919 (photo), 1 Aug 1919. Dewsbury Reporter, 11 Jan 1919 (photo)

Family Details

Samuel was born in Almondbury on 2nd September 1879 the son of John and Frances Atkins nee Wood and was privately baptised at All Hallows Church, Almondbury on 3rd October 1880.They lived at Almondbury Bank and John was a labourer. Laura was born in 1881 and the 1881 census states that John who came from Derbyshire, was a cart driver.

Before 1891 John had changed his occupation to become a teamer and the family had increased to include Louisa 1883, John William 1884 and Hubert 1888. The address given on the census was Wasp Nest, Almondbury Bank.

Before the birth of Wilfred in 1897 the family had moved to live at Broom Street, Soothill and the family had increased with the births of Harry 1892, Hilda 1894 and Lizzie 1896. Samuel was working as a railway? and his father was a general carrier. His parents continued to live at 20, Broom Street for many years.

Samuel married Elizabeth Wilson, who was born in the United States of America, on 20th July 1907 at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton and Arnold Wilson Atkins was born in 1909. He was killed in WW2 on 15th February 1942 and is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial. John was born in 1911 followed by Daisy Winifred in July 1914.

In 1911 the family was residing at 70, Commonside, Hanging Heaton

Samuel worked at Soothill Wood Colliery before enlisting and resided at 182, Greenwood Buildings, Commonside, Hanging Heaton. It was reported that he was very well known in the district.

Service Details

Samuel enlisted in August 1917 and went to France in March 1918. The 1/4th was attached to the 49th (West Riding) Division.

There was an attack on the 4/5 April when the German 18th Army attacked towards Amiens and was halted at Villers Bretonneux ten miles east of its objective.

It would appear that Samuel had only been in France for a very short time and not even been engaged in any major battle when he went missing. His wife appealed in both the Batley and Dewsbury papers hoping for any news about him. It was only in July 1919 that he was officially posted as missing presumed killed in action.

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

Samuel is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St Paul's), Soothill Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group