Charles Avison





Rank: - Private

Number: - 37292

Regiment: - East Yorkshire Regiment 1st Battalion (formerly 33371 KOYLI)

Died of Wounds: - 17th April 1917

Cemetery: - Abbeville Community Extension, Somme, France 11.E.18

"TIME DOES NOT CHANGE OUR THOUGHTS OF HIM LOVE AND SWEET MEMORIES LINGER STILL"

Batley News, 21 Apr 1917, 28 Apr 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Charles was born in Batley in 1883 the son of Arthur and Annie Elizabeth Avison (nee Sheard) who had married in 1879. In 1891 he was living at 7, Park Road with his parents and siblings Herbert (1880-1893), Hetty (1882-1948), and Arthur (1887-1897). Benjamin Sheard Avison was born in 1895 but sadly died aged 22 months in May 1897 and Mary Jane had been born in 1889 but sadly died aged 15 months in 1890.

In 1901 the family now included Fred (1893 - 1918), Laura Annie (1895 - 1905) and Edith (1897). Their father Arthur, a shopkeeper, had died in March 1898 while living at 1, Park Road which was the Masonic Lodge. The family had then moved to live at Cross Park Street, Batley.

Arthur (senior) had for many years lived at Nelson of the Nile Lodge of Freemasons at Park Road and was a respected member of the Lodge and died the year that he had been installed as Worshipful Master. He had joined the Lodge in 1882 when he was a clerk living at Bath Street, Batley.

The 1911 census shows that Arthur and Annie had nine children but five had died. Charlie was working in a woollen mill as a waste puller.

Charles married Linda Austin on 1st March 1913 at St. Thomas's Church, Batley. The couple went to live at 47, Wilson's Buildings, Bradford Road, Batley.

Before joining the Forces in 1916 he worked at Mr. George Heppenstall, waste merchants, Bradford Road, Batley. He attended Zion Methodist Chapel and was a member of the Batley Conservative Club.

Service Details

Charles enlisted in the Regular Army on 24th July 1916 and embarked for France on the 9th December 1916. He was posted to the 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment on 30th December 1916. His service records have survived and they show he was 5feet 4 1/2 inches tall weighing 150 lbs and had hammer toes on both feet.

The 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment at this time was in 64th Brigade, 21st Division.

On the 3rd April the 1st Battalion joined the line at Hamelincourt-Boiseux -Aux – Mont moving to Adinfer Wood on the 8th. On the 9th there were high winds and occasional snow. The battalion attacked during the afternoon and reached their first objective but not the 2nd and proceeded to consolidate. Charles received gunshot wounds to his skull and was taken to hospital. The matron of the hospital wrote to his wife: - *"We do not expect him to live through the night as he is dangerously ill."*

After being wounded he also suffered from meningitis. Sadly, he died on the 17th April a week after being wounded.

Official notice of his death came from the Record Office at York giving the cause of death as gunshot wounds to the skull and meningitis.

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

He is remembered with Honour at the Zion Methodist Chapel, Batley Conservative Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group