Albert Armitage Barber





Rank: - Private

Number: - 3701

Regiment: - Cameron Highlanders 4th Battalion Attd 1st Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 11th July 1916

Memorial: - Thiepval, France Pier and Face 15 B

Batley News, 22 Jul 1916 (photo), 5 Aug 1916 (photo) Reporter 21/7/16

Family Details

Albert Armitage was born in Staincliffe on 18th May 1896 the son of Joe Clegg and Louisa Barber nee Armitage who had married at Holy Innocents Church, Thornhill Lees on 11th August 1892. He was baptised at Christ Church, Staincliffe on 10th June 1896 when the address given was Staincliffe Hall Road and his father's occupation was a tailor.

According to the 1901 census his parents were deaf and dumb. They were living at 35, Staincliffe Hall Road with their children Edith Clegg born 1894, Albert and Ida born 22nd January 1901. Joe Hirst Barber was born the 6th July 1898 when the family gave their address as Pyrah Street, Carlton Road, Dewsbury but sadly he died in September 1900. Louisa was born in 1903.

In 1911 Albert was working as a grocer's assistant and living with his father at 35, Staincliffe Hall Road and two boarders Harriett Wilkinson and Sarah Jane Lister who were both deaf and dumb. His father's occupation was a journeyman tailor.

Albert attended Staincliffe Parish Church and worked at Carlinghow for Mr. Hepworth, grocer where he was well known. Before enlisting he worked in the grocery department of the Batley Co-operative Society in their Central Store. The family had returned to live at Staincliffe hall Road where his parents were still living in 1939.

Service Details

Albert enlisted in August 1915 and after training at Inverness and Ripon went to the Front in February 1916. The 1st Battalion was attached to 1st Brigade in 1st Division.

From the 1st July to 13th July 1916 they fought at the Battle of Albert which was on the Somme.

He sent a letter to his parents, which arrived at around the time of his death, which said that his regiment was having a rough time, but the communication gave the impression that the unit were then going for a rest. A letter received on the following Monday from a friend of his said: -

"I find it my painful duty to inform you of the death of your son, who was killed in action July 12th, by a shell along with three other comrades, one of whom came from Leeds. Your son was my pal and it made me feel as if I should go mad to see all my poor comrades getting killed, but Albert died instantly. He only gave me your address the night before as we marched into the trenches. A parcel arrived last night, so we opened it, I hope you don't mind. I got what I could out of the pockets and will send them on to you as soon as we get out of the trenches. It was a sad thing for us yesterday --- we had so many casualties. I will write and give you more information as soon as possible."

Albert Armitage was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group