# Albert Edward Barber






**Rank: -** Rifleman

**Number: -** 17/2120

**Regiment/Battalion: -** Royal Irish Rifles 11th Battalion (formerly 27332 K.O.Y.L.I.)

**Died of Wounds: -** 22nd January 1918 at Bally Kinley Hospital, Co. Down. Aged 25

**Cemetery: -** Batley, Yorkshire K 263

**Batley News, 26 Jan 1918, 2 Feb 1918 (photo). Dewsbury Reporter, 2 Feb 1918**

**Family Details:**

Albert Edward was born in Gomersal in 1892 the son of Joseph Ramsden Barber and his wife Ellen (nee Trevitt) who had married on Boxing Day in 1874 at St. Peter's Birstall.

In 1901 the family was living at 8, Carlton Road, Batley Carr with siblings Mary Alice (1878), Lorenzo (1880), Sarah Ellen (1884), Jane (1888), Albert Edward (1892) and lastly Hilda (1894). The eldest son, Joseph (b. 1876) had by this time left the family home.

The family moved soon after this to live at Carlinghow where Albert attended Carlinghow Council School and Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School, being a member of the Young Men's Class.

In 1911 the family was living in a four roomed house at 50, Shay Terrace, Carlinghow. Lorenzo and Sarah Ellen had married and left home. Joseph was working as a night firer, Albert was working at R. Dewhirst, print works and his sisters were all weavers.

After leaving school he worked for Messrs. R. Dewhirst & Co's Print works as a colour printer before moving to J.T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills as a night condenser minder.

His father died in January 1915 leaving Albert as the only man in the house so he did not join the forces at the beginning of the war but only after conscription came into force in 1916.

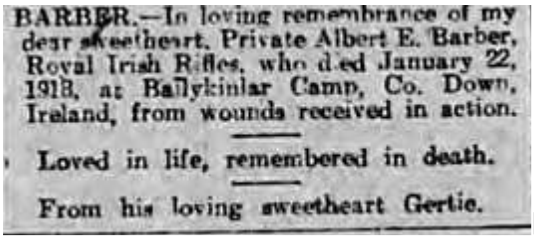
**Service Details:**

He joined the forces in Batley, in February 1916, as Private 27332 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and went to France in June the same year. He was only there three months when he was gassed and returned to England. He was sent back to France in early 1917. Albert transferred to the Royal Irish Rifles as a rifleman. At this time the 11th Battalion came under the orders of 108th Brigade, 36th (Ulster) Division.

The Division, in 1917, fought at the Battles of Messines, in which they captured Wytschaete (7thJune-11thJuly), and Langemarck (3rd Battle of Ypres, 16th-18th August). These were entrenched warfare but the British and Commonwealth troops began to play the leading role. His head and right hand were injured in August and he was sent to Scotland for treatment and was then subsequently transferred to a convalescent camp in Ballykinler in Ireland.

He sent a letter home which he had written on the Monday, saying he was in good health. On the Tuesday the family received a telegram to say he was seriously ill, followed by another requesting them to go at once as he was sinking fast. They received a wire on Wednesday morning before anyone had left to say he had died. A post mortem examination revealed he had died from a blood vessel bursting on his brain.

He was brought home to Batley and was buried at Batley Cemetery on Sunday 27th January with military honours. Soldiers from the local Army Ordnance Corps depot acted as bearers and a large number of soldiers from Staincliffe Base Hospital also attended. The service was conducted by Captain, the Rev. Gordon Wright chaplain at Staincliffe Hospital assisted by Rev. P.B.Jenkinson of Cross Bank. The "Last Post" was sounded over the grave and there were many wreaths including one tied with red, white and blue ribbon from soldier friends.


BARBER.—In loving remembrance of my dear sweetheart, Private Albert E. Barber, Royal Irish Rifles, who died January 22, 1918, at Ballykinlar Camp, Co. Down, Ireland, from wounds received in action.

Loved in life, remembered in death.

From his loving sweetheart Gertie.

Batley News 25th January 1919

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, St. John's Church, Carlinghow, Cross Bank Chapel (the memorial is now in Central Methodist Church, Batley), Batley Cemetery and Ireland, Casualties of World War 1.




Researched by members of
Batley History Group