Edwin Henry Bateman





Rank: - Private

Number: - G/21164

Regiment: - Middlesex Regt. No. 7 Platoon "B" Coy. 23rd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 24th April 1918 aged 23 years

Memorial: - Arras Memorial, Pas-de- Calais, France Bay 7

Batley News, 4 May 1918, 11 May 1918 (photo), 4 Jan 1919

Family Details

Edwin Henry was born in Batley on the 15th April 1895 the son of Frederick and Susan Bateman (nee Broadhead). The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 14th January 1888. Edwin was baptised on the 25th January 1898 on the same day as his brother John who was born 28th December 1897. The family lived in Oaks Road, Soothill and Frederick's occupation was given as an engineman.

In 1891 his parents and Brother Sam, born 1889, were living in Broom Street, Soothill. Elizabeth Ellen was born in 1892 followed by William Henry 1893, Edwin 1895 and John 1897.

In 1901 the family was living in Oaks Road but before 1911 they had moved to live at 31, France Street, in a three roomed home and there had been seven children born to the couple but two had not survived infancy.

After leaving school Edwin served his apprenticeship with Mr. Oswald Whitehead, wool merchant, of Station Road, Batley and later became a traveller for a Bradford firm. He was associated with Hick Lane Wesleyan Sunday School.

In November 1917 he married Phoebe Smith in Gravesend who was a distant relative to Gypsy Smith.

Service Details

Edwin enlisted in 1916 at the same time as his brother Sam who lost his arm during the heavy fighting in July 1916.

The 23rd Battalion (2nd Football) Regiment was in 123rd Brigade, 41st Division and went to France in the first week of May 1916. They fought at the Battles of Fleurs –Courcelette and Transloy Ridges on the Somme in 1916.

In 1917 they fought at the Battles of Messines, The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of the Menin Road (the latter 2 being phases of the Third Battle of Ypres) and the Operations on the Flanders coast.

On 7 November the Division was notified that it was to be transferred to Italy. The move (by train) began five days later and by 18 November all units had concentrated North West of Mantua. The Division took over a sector of front

line behind the River Piave, north west of Treviso, between 30 November and early on 2 December.

On 28 February 1918 the Division concentrated in Campo San Piero, preparatory to returning to France. By 9 March it had completed concentration near Doullens and Mondicourt.

On the 4th April the battalion was taken by bus from Bonniere to Eecke where they were to be billeted and on the 9th they left Junction Camp for the front line. There was heavy shelling and some soldiers had to be evacuated and digging needed to be done on a new line. This digging continued at Wieltje until the 26th April when the main line of resistance became the new outpost line.

It was reported in the War Diaries that one other rank was missing on the 24th April and 4 other ranks were evacuated.

Edwin would have been the missing man and it was hoped that he had been taken prisoner.

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

He is remembered with Honour at St. Luke's Church, St. Paul's Church Hanging Heaton, Batley War Memorial and Hanging Heaton War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group