William Bennett



Rank: - Private

Number: - 7228

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 28/10/1914 Age: 30 years

Cemetery: - Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Panel 31

Batley News, 23 Sept 1916

Family Details

William Bennett was born in Birstall on the 25th February 1883. He was born in the Quarry area of Birstall which was situated at Brownhill above Brookroyd Lane. He was the youngest child of John Bennett and Louisa Ball who married at Tong Chapel in 1866. In 1881 the family are living at Co-op Street, Gomersal where John is a coal miner. The family had 6 children Selina (1869), Joseph (1872), Mary Ann (1876), Priscilla (1878), George (1880) and William (1883). John, the father, died in 1891 and by the 1901 census only the two youngest are still at home with their mother living at Fell Fold, Cross Bank, Batley. Selina died unmarried in 1895. Joseph married Ann Horrobin in 1897 and they had two children. Joseph Sykes Bennett (1898) and Ethel born in 1905. George married Mabeth Ripley in 1907 but she died in 1909. He did however marry again in 1920 at Birstall Parish Church to Amy Shackleton. They had two daughters Doris (1923) and Clare (1925). William married on 18th May 1907 to Mabel Sykes. The marriage took place in Sheffield and Mabel already had a baby daughter Florence Mabel Sykes. The marriage certificate shows that William was living at 2 Court Buildings, Birstall. William was a Teamer and the 1911 census shows the couple living at 74 Raikes Lane, Birstall with their family which now included Selina (1909) and Sykes (1910). Sadly, Sykes died the following year.

Service Details

When war broke out William was already a Reservist and had enlisted at Batley. He disembarked on the 14th August 1914 and was killed in action on the 28th October. A diary of another soldier at the time explains what happened that day.

RICHEBOURG L'AVOUE (near BETHUNE)

28th Wednesday. Still in trenches, heavy shell firing and heavy casualties. Captain Richmond killed. A Company's trenches got the worst of the shelling, though other Company's had their share. Captain Carter's trench lost 9 killed and another 12 wounded. French Artillery firing short accounted for a great many of these.

This would have been at the Battle of Mons.

In 1915 Mabel remarried Joseph Adshead and by the early 1920s was living on the new development at Wilton Estate. Her address is given as 5, The Grove, Housing Estate, Batley.

William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at the Le Touret Memorial; Mount Top, Methodist Church, Birstall Roll of Honour and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group