Marriott Benson



Rank: - C/Sgt (WO2)

Number: - 6970

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Attd. Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment)) No 5 Coy. 2nd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 13th October 1915 aged 32 years

Cemetery: - Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Panels 97 and 98

13 Nov 1915 Batley News

Family Details

Marriott was born in Dewsbury in 1883 the son of Manchester born George Benson and his wife, Jane, nee Whiteley. The couple had married in the 2nd Qtr 1866 in the Dewsbury District.

Mary was born in 1867 followed by Anne 1869, Joseph Whiteley 1871 and in 1871 the family was living in Purlwell Lane, Batley. George was a cloth dresser and he moved around the area probably to be near his work. Susan was born in Liversedge in 1875 followed by Minnie in Batley in 1877 and Percy 1881 and the family was living in Warwick Road, Batley when the census was taken that year. John born 1879 died aged 9 months in August 1880. George died in April 1888.

The 1891 census when the family with Jane at the head was living at 13, Cross Park Street, Batley and it states that Marriott was born in Dewsbury followed by Ethel 1885, Soothill, and John Arthur 1888 in Batley. In 1901 Jane was still the head and she was living with her family at Prince Street, off Bradford Road, Batley. Jane died in Birstall in March 1910.

Marriott worked as a cloth finisher like his brothers and was then a cutter at Mr. Michael Sheard 's Mill at Hick Lane which by 1915 belonged to Messrs. G. & J. Stubley. It is reported that his father had worked for Messrs. Porritt and Senior, Dewsbury as their foreman finisher and at some stage lived in Taylor Street, Batley. Marriott used to attend St. Thomas's Church, Batley. Marriott enlisted in the KOYLI in about 1901.

In 1910 Marriott married Jessie Florence Philadelphia Audus in Farnham, Surrey. Her father was a Captain (later Major) in the army and came from Aldershot.

Charles Addis Benson was born in 1910 followed by Lilian May 17th March 1913 in Pontefract District and Florence Margaret 1916 in Milnsbridge, Huddersfield.

On the 5th January 1918 Jessie married Arthur Brooks at the Parish Church of Rashcliffe.

Service Details

Marriott enlisted about 1901 and went with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry to various parts of the world before returning to Pontefract as drill sergeant. He volunteered for service abroad and went to the Front in February 1915 and saw many hot engagements. His wife had gone to live in Milnsbridge, Huddersfield but he had some leave about 8 weeks before his death and went to see his brothers and sisters in Batley and Dewsbury. George was a cloth finisher who lived in Savile Town, John Arthur resided at the Bath Hotel, Halifax Road, Dewsbury, Percy was a munitions worker in Huddersfield and Joseph and one of his sisters lived at Stanley Terrace, Park Road, Batley.

News of his death came from his captain who explained that he was shot when about to lead his men into action. Benson called for help and a comrade who promptly went to his rescue was shot dead while Benson did not live long.

A memorial service was held at Batley Parish Church conducted by the Vicar and attended by his widow and one of his children. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Benson from Batley, Mr. & Mrs. O. Burnley (sister and brother-in-law) , George and Doris Burnley, Mr. & Mrs. Clegg, Heckmondwike (sister and brother-in-law), Mr.& Mrs Whitehead (sister and brother-in-law Huddersfield), Percy Benson , Huddersfield, Master George and Miss Edith Clegg, Mr.& Mrs Sims (niece and husband)Huddersfield, Mrs. Lancaster (niece) Huddersfield, Mrs Ingham and Miss Amy Ingham (cousins) Batley, Mrs haigh and Miss Carry (cousins) West Ardsley, Mr. Benson Morton and Mr. Ben Morton (cousins) Lee Fair.

Lieut. A.S. Bright in a letter of sympathy says the deceased was ordered to go across the open the German trenches which had been taken and it was while going that he was shot. He said he was close to his own brother, who went to her husband's assistance on hearing his call for help but he regretted to say that he was also killed while returning to get further help. He knew Marriott well and always found him most reliable and a good soldier to work with.

Lieut. S.T. Swire in answering a query from his widow said: -

"I have heard that an officer was near the Sergeant – Major at the time he was shot and did what he could for him, but the officer was afterwards himself killed. The Sergeant Major was carried out of the trench in the evening and buried in

the cemetery at---. I cannot see what became of the kit he had with him but I think a parcel of things has been sent to you. The kit that was left in his valise has been sent down to the base and any personal things should eventually reach you."

Marriott was awarded the 1915 Star, Victory Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group