Sam Berry



Rank: - Private

Number: - 34379

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

Missing, presumed killed in Action: - 2nd December 1917 aged 36 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panels 108 to 111

Batley News, 5 Jan 1918, 12 Jan 1918

Family Details

Sam was born in Batley in c1881 the son of Charles and Ischa Berry (nee Burnley) who had married at Dewsbury in 1878.

Sam was four months old when 1881 census was taken living at Bankfoot when Charles was described as a rag merchant.

In 1891 the family was living at No 4. Yard 3, Bradford Road, Batley and Charles was working as a woollen spinner and Ischa as a weaver. Ethel France had been born in 1883 and married Sam Binns Haley in 1907 and Lavinia who died in October 1901 was born in 1879.

Charles died in August 1891.

In 1901 the family was living at 4, Drill Hall Yard in 1901 where Sam was employed as a rug maker.

In 1911 Sam and his mother were living in a two roomed home at 4, Bankfoot, Batley and he was described as a rug manufacturer.

Sam was strongly connected to Up Lane Sunday School and was a life- long companion of Joshua Lee who went missing at about the same time. Before enlisting Sam worked at Messrs. J., T. & J. Taylor's, Branch Mills.

His mother returned to live at Drill Hall Yard, Batley.

Service Details

Sam enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry which from 28th December 1915 came under the orders of 97th Brigade in 32nd Division.

We know from his service medals that he did not serve abroad before 1916.

In 1917 the battalion took part in Operations on the Ancre and the pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line.

His mother appealed in the Batley News for any news of her son when he had been missing for around four weeks.

Sam was missing, presumed killed in action on the 2nd December 1917 and it was some time before his mother received official news from the authorities.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Up Lane Sunday School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group