James William Booth





Rank: - Private

Number: - 40824

Regiment: - Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) (Formerly 21291 King's Own Scottish Borderers) 2nd Battalion

Missing Presumed killed in action: - 31/07/1917 Age: 31 years

Memorial: - Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 22

Batley News, 31 Aug 1918, 22 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

James William was born in Birstall on 5th April 1886 the eldest son of John and Emma Booth nee Ramsbottom who had married on 20th February 1886 at Birstall St Peter's Church. He was baptised on the 20th October 1886 when the family was living at Carr Street, Birstall and his father's occupation was a cloth weaver.

Bertha was born in 1888, Thomas Taylor 1891, Herbert 1897, Arthur 1900 and in 1901 the family was living at Farrar's Buildings, Batley and John was a fried fish fryer and James William was a machine mender at a print works.

Emily as born in 1905 and Clifford in 1909 and in 1911 John had once again become a dyer's labourer and the family had moved to Hirst Buildings, Cross Bank, Batley.

On the 14th May 1910 James William married Martha Wood at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Carlton Street, Castleford. Details given, he was a rag warehouseman living at 36, Whitaker Street, Batley and his father was a cotton dyer.

The couple went to live in a two roomed home at 7, Wooller's Buildings, Upper Batley and Sarah Edith was born in 1910. John followed in 1912 and Alfred born in 1914 died November 1915 aged 19 months. They had moved to live at North Street, Cross Bank, Batley.

James William was connected with Birstall Wesleyan Chapel and a member of the Birstall Tent of Rechabites. Before he enlisted, he was a cloth raiser for Messrs. Brook, Jubb & Co's, Union Mills.

Service Details

James William enlisted at Dewsbury (Batley) 1 on the 2nd August 1915 and disembarked on the 19th December 1915. He was wounded but returned to France.

The 2nd Battalion came under the orders of 23rd Brigade, 8th Division but it is not known when James William joined them.

In I917 they took part in: -

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line 14th March -5th April

During Somme fighting of 1916 the Germans constructed a formidable new defensive system some miles in their rear. From March 1917 they began to withdraw into it, giving up ground but in carrying out *Operation Alberich* they make that ground as uninhabitable and difficult as possible. British detect the withdrawal and cautiously follow up and advance, being brought to a standstill at the outer defences of the system.

The Battle of Pilckem Ridge (31 July – 2 August 1917) was the opening attack of the Third Battle of Ypres in the First World War. The British Fifth Army, supported by the Second Army on the southern flank and the French First Army on the northern flank, attacked the German 4th Army, which defended the Western Front from Lille northwards to the Ypres Salient in Belgium and on to the North Sea coast.

James William went missing on the first day of this battle.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Independent Order of Rechabites, Hope of Birstall Lodge and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group