Arthur Booth





Rank: - Private

Number: - 30824

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Died in Captivity: - 19th April 1918 aged 24

Cemetery: - Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord, France

"GONE FROM OUR HOME BUT NEVER FROM OUR HEARTS"

Batley News, 25 May 1918, 28 Dec 1918 (photo) Batley Reporter, 3 May 1918

Family Details

Arthur was born in Batley Carr in c 1894 the son of Joe and Jane Booth (nee Hirst). The couple had married at New Mill on 2nd October 1880 and Arthur was baptised at Christ Church, New Mill on 16th September 1894.

Ambrose (1881), Alice (1883), Annie (1885), Agnes (1887), and Emily (1889), were born in Fulstone according to the census.

They moved to live in Batley Carr from New Mill (Fulstone) shortly before the 1891 census was taken and lived in Warwick Road. Sam was born in 1892, Arthur followed by John 1896, Percy 1899 and Elsie in 1901. Joe was a scribbling overlooker in a woollen mill.

In 1901 the family was living at 58, Wood Terrace, Warwick Road but sadly Elsie died in October 1901 aged 7 months. She was the only child not to survive infancy.

Arthur attended Warwick Road School and Broomhill Sunday School and after leaving school went to work Messrs. Driver's and Messrs. Slater's grocery stores at their Batley branches before becoming a manager for Messrs. Melia's stores at Huddersfield.

Service Details

Arthur enlisted in 1916 and went to France in 1917. The 9th (Service) Battalion was attached to 64th Brigade in 21st Division. In 1917 they took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, First and Third Battles of Scarpe, flanking operations around Bullecourt, Battles of Polygon Wood, Broodseinde Second Battle of Passchendaele and Cambrai Operations.

In 1918 they took part in the Battle of St. Quentin (21st-23rd March) and the First Battle of Bapaume (24th -25th March).

Arthur was captured and taken prisoner in one of these battles.

On the 4th May 1918 it was reported that his parents, who had not heard from him for 5 weeks, had been informed that their son had been taken a prisoner and was held at Limburg. He had been home on leave 7 weeks before this date.

When the war ended in November the prisoners started to come home and his parents hoped he would be home before Christmas.

Sadly, instead of his arrival they received notification that his name appeared on an official list of dead. His parents appealed in the “Batley News” asking if any repatriated prisoner can supplement the vague news received from the authorities, they would be very grateful.

His brother, John, was killed in action 28th November 1917.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Broomhill Chapel, Warwick Road School Diary and Batley War Memorial.



Le Cateau-Cambresis and the country to the west of it was the scene of a battle fought by the British II Corps on 26 August 1914 against a greatly superior German force. The town remained in German hands from that date until the evening of 10 October 1918, when it was rushed by the 5th Connaught Rangers and finally cleared a week later. During the war Le Cateau had been a German railhead and the site of an important hospital centre. The military cemetery was laid out by the Germans in February 1916 with separate plots for the Commonwealth and German dead. It contains the graves of over 5,000 German soldiers, many of whom were buried during the occupation, the rest being brought in from other German cemeteries after the Armistice. A separate plot contains the graves of 34 Russian prisoners of war who died in captivity. The Commonwealth plot is the site of almost 700 graves and commemorations of the First World War.

Researched by members of
Batley History Group