Ernest Boothroyd





Rank: - Private

Number: - 33119

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry "Y" Coy 6th Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 13th May 1917 aged 29 years

Memorial: - Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France Bay 7

Batley News, 2 Jun 1917 (photo). Dewsbury Reporter, 29 Sep 1917

Family Details

Ernest was born in Batley in October 1887 the son of Emily Boothroyd and in 1891 he was living at 63, King Street, Batley with his mother, grandmother, Ann, and a boarder Mary Halstead. His mother married Samuel John Nelson Marsh on 6th April 1896 at St. Thomas's Church, Batley but sadly she died in December 1897.

Ernest lived with his maternal grandmother and Aunt Clara Clegg and Uncle Samuel Clegg at 18, Pit Lane, Batley in 1901.

Ernest married Bertha Hartley on 29th January 1910 at Talbot Street United Methodist Church and Herbert was born later that year.

Ernest was employed at J.T. & J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills and was associated with Talbot Street United Methodist Church. He was also a sick steward for a Batley Lodge of the Oddfellows and also a member of Batley Liberal Club.



Service Details

Ernest enlisted in July 1916. The 6th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry came under the command of 43rd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division. It is not known when Ernest went to France but in 1916 the battalion fought at the Battles of Bazentin and the Ancre. In 1917 they took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line fighting at the First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14th April) and the Third Battle of the Scarpe (3/4th May).

On the 2nd May 1917 the battalion moved from billets in Ronville into the Coveul Switch south of the Harp. On the 3rd, before dawn, the 14th Division attacked the enemy positions west of Vis-en-Artois. During the next few days the enemy heavily shelled the Coveul Valley and the villages of Wancourt and Guemappe, day and night. On the night of the 10th /11th the battalion took over part of the front from the 6th Durham Light Infantry south of the Kestrel Line and a new line on the right as far as Swan C.T. from the 10th Essex Regiment. This gave the battalion a front of about 1,000 yards, the right company being about 650 yards west of Cherisy.

The new trenches were not under direct enemy observation so escaped the heavy shelling which they had received on the left. However, in the 13th May one soldier was killed, seven wounded and four were missing from the battalion.

An officer wrote: -

"Please accept my sympathy and regret at your husband's disappearance, which happened whilst executing his duty on May 13t. It may be of interest to you to know that your husband was very much liked by all his comrades and officers alike, and he has so far only been reported "missing" there is a possibility that he is a prisoner in the hands of the Germans. Every endeavour was made to find him, but no trace could be found of him."

His wife also received a sympathetic letter from a comrade.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Talbot Street United Methodist Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group