Joseph Boothroyd



Rank: - Private

Number: - 26146

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 2/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 13/09/1917 Age: 29 years

Cemetery: - Favreuil British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France 1.F.15

"WE MOURN SILENTLY BUT PROUDLY OUR BELOVED SON AND BROTHER"

Family Details

Joseph was born in Batley on the 5th January 1888 the son of Walter and Harriet Boothroyd nee Singleton who had married on the 20th August 1887 at Batley Parish Church. He was baptised at St. John's Church, Carlinghow on the 12th February 1888 when Walter gave the address as Birstall and his occupation was a cabinet maker.

In 1891 the family was living at 11, Bradford Road, Batley, but before 1901 with the addition of his brother Seth 1895 when they were living at Dark Lane, they had moved to 49, Carlinghow Lane, Batley. Thirteen-year-old Joseph was working as a bank clerk at a colliery and although he had attended Batley Grammar School he must not have stayed there long although he did benefit by being a clerk instead of working in the mills or down a coal mine.

Before 1911 Walter had taken the licence at the Bolton Hotel at 1025, Bolton Lane, Bradford and young Joseph had become an electrical engineer.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted at Bradford into the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 2/5th Battalion but it is not known at what date. The regiment was formed at York on the 28th September 1914 but did not land at Le Havre until January 1917 and by 18 January concentration was completed in Third Army area between the rivers Canche and Authie. They came under the orders of 185th Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. They took part in:-

The Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)
The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)

The battalion was ordered to take over the front line from the 7th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment during the might of the 12th to 13th September. On the 13th September the war diary records: -

"A*bout 2 am the enemy put up a barrage and raided the "apex" occupied by the 2/6th battalion. The 2/5th lost two killed and 4 wounded, the 3/6th lost 6 killed and 24 wounded. The enemy left several wounded, unwounded, and killed in the hands of the 2/6th. "*

Joseph would have been wounded and died later the same day.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Grammar School and Batley War Memorial, Addenda.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group