Frank Bowling



Rank: - Private

Number: - 47762

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/4th Battalion

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 28th March 1918 aged 34 years

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

Batley News, 11 May 1918, 25 May 1918. Batley Reporter, 31 May 1918

Family Details

Frank was born in Batley in c.1884 the only surviving son of John Joseph and Sarah Ann Bowling nee Spurr, who had married on 5th May 1883 at Batley, All Saints Church. He was baptised at St. Peter's Church, Morley on November 1884 when the abode given was Morley and his father's occupation was a carrier. In 1891 the family with the addition of Fred 1889 was living at 1, yard 5 Cross Bank Street, Batley and John Joseph gave his occupation as a carrier drayman.

Sadly, Fred died in May 1892, his brother Henson was born c. July 1883 but died in early May 1884 aged 10 months.

In 1901 the family was at 2, yard 5, Cross Bank Road, Batley with the additions of Mary Ann born 13th November 1893 and Jenny 1896 when John Joseph was working as a drayman and sixteen-year-old was a piecener at a woollen mill.

On the 1st April 1911 Frank who lived at 12, Whitaker Street, Batley married Dora Wood of 8, Whitaker Street, Batley and the couple went to live in a three roomed home at 10, West Street, Soothill, Batley. On the 1911 census he gave his occupation as a teamer for a shoddy and rag merchant and Dora who came from Stockton, Durham, also worked for a shoddy and rag merchant as a sorter. It is possible they worked for his uncle Mr. William James Turner, who had married Sarah Bowling, who lived at 5, Talbot Street who was a rag merchant. A newspaper report says that at one time he worked for his uncle Mr. W.J. Turner (rag merchant).Before he enlisted he was a night spinner at Messrs. J. T.& J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills and was a member of Hanover Street P.S.A. and had moved to live at Whitaker Square, Batley.

Service Details

Frank enlisted in September 1917 and went to France around Christmas 1917.

The 2/4th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire light Infantry was attached to 187th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division which had been formed in September 1914 and landed at Le Havre on 15th January 1917.

The first Battle of 1918 which Frank would have encountered was the Battle of Bapaume on the 25th March followed by the First Battle of Arras on the 28th March which were both *phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918.*

Frank was posted missing in this last battle.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group