Joseph Bradford



Rank: - Private

Number: - 6237

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 1/7th Battalion (Leeds Rifles)

Died of Wounds: - 3rd February 1917 aged 36 years

Cemetery: - Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France XXL.D.12

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Family Details

Joseph and his twin Benjamin were born in Laisterdyke, Bradford in 1881 the sons of Frederick & Sarah Alice Bradford (nee Bell) who had married on 6 May 1867 at St Peter's Church, Leeds. They were 3 months old and living at Firth Street, Pudsey with their parents and older siblings John William 1867, Frederick James 1870, Martha Maria 1873 and Thomas Henry 1878 when the 1881 census was taken. Their Leeds born father was described as a mason labourer. Sadly, his twin brother Benjamin died in 1881. Mary Elizabeth born 1875 sadly died in 1877.

Milcah was born in 1884, Jonathan in 1887 and the family in 1891 was living at Holme, Tong, Bradford.

His father died in 1900 and before 1901 Sarah Alice and the younger members of her family were living at 175, Cutler Height, Tong.

On 14th March 1903 Joseph married Elizabeth Hartley at Great Horton, Bradford. John Arthur was born later that year but sadly died in late 1904.

In 1911 Joseph, who was working as a labourer at a combers and spinners, was living with his wife and children Alfred born December 1905 and Francis 1908 at 2, Inkerman Street, Bradford.

The family moved to live at 4, Crowther Street, Healey, Batley.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted at Halifax but his records have not survived and to date we have found no details in the local papers but he did not serve abroad before 1916.

The 1/7th West Yorkshire Regiment was part of 146th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division.

In 1916 they took part on the Somme in:-

The Battle of Albert 1st-13th July
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge 14th -17th July
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge 23rd July-3rd September
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette 15th -22nd September

On the 7th January 1917 the battalion moved in buses to Bailleulmont moving into the trenches between the 9th and 11th and then supplying working parties before going back to the trenches for four days between the 16th and 19th. In the Battalions War Diary there was nothing to report between the 20th and 23rd until they went back into "C 2" section of the trenches on the 24th until they were relieved on the 27th. They went back into the trenches on the 31st January until the 3rd February 1917.

The War Diaries do not give any evidence of a battle or that any soldiers were wounded or killed but Joseph died at the hospital at Etaples so it can be assumed he was wounded several days before his death.

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

Joseph is remembered with Honour at Christ Church Staincliffe and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group