Arnold Howard Broadley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 34648

Regiment/Battalion: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt.) 1st/7th Battalion (Leeds Rifles) Formerly 69093 Northumberland Fusiliers.

Killed in Action: - 11th October 1918 aged 19.

Cemetery: - Wellington Cemetery, Rieux-En-Cambresis R111.C.10.

Batley News, 9 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details:

Arnold Howard was born in 1899 in Morley, the eldest child of Whitley born Frederick and Mary Hannah Broadley (nee Rothwell). He was baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 9th July 1899 and his father's occupation was given as a cloth fuller. The family was living at 87, New Bank Street, Morley.

In 1901 the family was still at Morley when Dorothy Audrey was born in August 1901, but the family had moved to Batley before the birth of Marion Rothwell on 29th June 1903. Norman followed in 1905, Constance Irene (1908) and George Rothwell on the 26th August 1910. The family, in 1911, was living at 11, West Brook Terrace, Bradford Road, Batley.

Arnold attended Batley Parish School and Batley Grammar School, starting in the autumn term 1913, and had been in the choir at St. John's Church being also interested in Sunday School work. After leaving school he went to work at the Batley News Office being on the mechanical staff where it was reported that he had a genial disposition which made him very popular.

Service Details:

Arnold enrolled in Batley in April 1917 joining the Northumberland Fusiliers and disembarked at Easter 1918 (3rd April).

His attestation papers dated 12th February 1917 records he was 17 years and 8 months, was a linotype operator, was 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed 119 pounds. His medical took place at Pontefract on 23rd April 1917. He was mobilised on the 9th July 1917 and joined a Graduated Training Battalion and then posted to the 5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers as number 69093 where he stayed with them for his first few months in France before having a compulsory transfer to the 1/7th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment on the 3rd August 1918.

The 1st /7th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment was part of 146th Brigade, 49th (West Riding) Division.

On October 10th 1918 the 7th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment were in the Sailly area of France. The war diary for the battalion shows: -

"Battalion put under two hours' notice to move forward upon receipt of orders. Moved up by march route to Escadouvres area, arriving 11 pm. Packs, blankets etc were dumped at Sailly. Battalion remained at Escadouvres awaiting orders to move. "

The order to move came in the early hours of October 11th.

"Operation order received for attack. Battalion moved forward 2 a.m. to assembly positions East of Naves and NW of Rieux. Zero hour 9 a.m. An advance of 1,000yards was made, the battalion passing the Canadians who were holding the line. Towards noon the enemy counter attacked with tanks and we withdrew 500 yards to the Sunken Road where the enemy were held for the night. "

Arnold was killed on October 11th 1918 in the battle for the River Selle.

Official news of his death reached his parents on Sunday 3rd November.

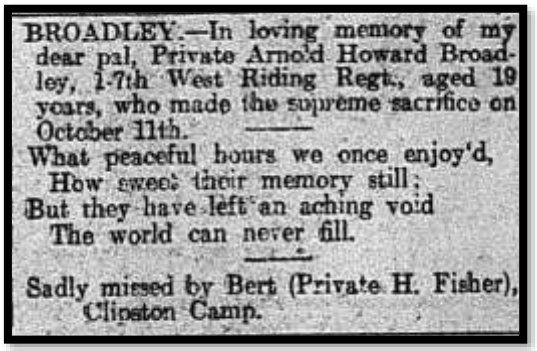
A memorial service for him was held at St. John's, Carlinghow on the Saturday evening following the news of his death.

His friend from Clipstone Camp put a memorial on the Batley News: -

BROADLEY- *In loving memory of my dear pal, Private Arnold Howard Broadley, 1-7th West Riding Regt., aged 19years, who made the supreme sacrifice on October 11th. -------*

What peaceful hours we once enjoy'd
How sweet their memory still,
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill

Sadly, missed by Bert (Private H. Fisher), Clipstone Camp.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Arnold was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is Remembered with Honour at St. John's, Carlinghow, Batley Grammar School, Batley War Memorial and Wellington Cemetery, Rieux, France along with another 166 killed on the same day.

The village of Rieux was captured in October 1918, in the Pursuit to the Selle, and the cemetery was made by battalions of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment immediately after. It lies five and a half miles East North East of Cambrai.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group