James Edward Broady (Brodie)





Rank: - Private

Number: - 5623

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry "A" Coy. 1/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 1st November 1916 aged 22 years

Cemetery: - Hebuterne Military Cemetery, Pas-de- Calais, France 1.V.8

"O MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS HAVE MERCY ON HIM"

Batley News, 9 Dec 1916, 16 Dec 1916 (photo) Batley Reporter, 2 Mar 1917

Family Details

James Edward was born in Staincliffe on the 5th October 1894 the son of James and Bridget Broady nee Purtel, who had married in 1888 in the Dewsbury Registration District.

Twins Kate (Catherine) and Mary Ellen were born in 1889 followed by John Thomas born August 1891 who died aged one month, James Edward, Michael c1897, Hilda 1900 who died aged 4 years in late October 1904 and John 1906.

In 1891 and 1901 the family was living at Common Road, Staincliffe, Batley. James was employed as a willeyer in a woollen mill and Bridget worked as a rag picker.

James Edward attended St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School, Heckmondwike and later went to work in the finishing department of Messrs. J. T. & J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mills, Batley.

The family moved to live at 5, Bunker's Lane, Staincliffe.

Service Details

James was called up in March 1916 as a Derby Recruit and served under the name Brodie.

The 1/5th had landed at Boulogne on the 12th April 1915 being part of the 148th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division.

His service details have not survived and it is not known if he was serving with his regiment in the Battle of Albert (1st-13th July) where his brother Michael was posted missing. The regiment went on to fight at the Battles of Bazentin Ridge (14th -17th July) Pozieres Ridge (23rd July -3rd September) and Flers- Courcelette (15th -22nd September) which were all parts of the Battles of the Somme 1916.

On 23rd September they moved away from the Thiepval sector and by 3rd October the 1/5th had moved into the front line at Hannescamps where it was considered a quiet part of the line, they were still within range of German machine guns and artillery. No Man's Land was only between 1000 yards to 250 yards and when the 1/4th Duke of Wellington's had been in this sector they had

one serious complaint- rats. Where it was said they were the worst plague of rats to be found on the Western Front.

They went out of the line for a few days and returned to the Hebuterne section where there was a heavy bombardment on 22nd October.

Although casualties were slight on this part of the front, they were never totally absent. The men became increasingly tired as they struggled to repair the trenches, which consistently suffered from German artillery, trench mortars and deteriorating weather conditions as winter set in.

Sadly, James Edward was one of the men killed.

His parents received official notification from the Territorial Office but also from Second Lieut. R.M. Penman the officer commanding his company: -

"It is with the deepest regret I have to inform you of your son's death. He was killed by a shell and the doctor says he would be in no pain as death was instantaneous. I have only taken over this company a few weeks ago but had noticed your son as a good soldier. He was quiet and unassuming but a man who could be relied on. No matter how hard things were going he never grumbled but carried on cheerfully. His death is a great loss to the company as alas men of his stamp are all too few. I treat the knowledge that he had faithfully done his duty at all times will help you to bear your sad bereavement. He has been buried here in a military cemetery and the battalion headquarters will let you know full particulars later as I am not allowed to say just now. Please accept my deepest sympathy."

Company Quarter Master Sergeant Ernest Firth wrote: -

"*On behalf of the officers, NCO's, men of the company I wish to express to you our deepest sympathy to you at the loss of your dear son. I always found him a good quiet and very willing lad. He was a lad I greatly took to and if ever I wanted a volunteer I could always rely on him coming with me for rations or any other fatigue that wanted doing. I was not exactly on the spot when he was killed but believe me every attention was given to him. It may be some slight consolation to know he suffered no pain. He died a good soldier gallantly serving his King and country. He was buried besides a lot of other comrades in the British soldier's*

cemetery at ----. Allow me to offer our very deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement."

His brother Michael aged 19 years was reported Killed in Action on 1st July 1916.

James Edward was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group