Frank Buckley





Rank: - Private

Number: - 19997

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers "D" Coy 6th Battalion

Missing presumed Killed in Action: - 3rd May 1917 aged 20

Remembered with Honour: - Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais Bay 6

Batley News, 16 Mar 1918 (photo) Batley Reporter, 29 Jun 1917, 6 Jul 1917

Family Details

Frank Buckley was born in Mirfield in 1897 to Harry Buckley, a hopper minder, and his wife Florence (Nee Holt) both born in Mirfield. His brother Fred was born in 1899 followed by Annie (1903), Ada (1904-1907), Albert Britton (1906), Eleanor (1908) In 1901 the family were living at Old Bank Road, Mirfield where he was educated at Knowl Day School, before moving to Batley where he attended Carlinghow Council School. The 1911 census says there were 7 children born alive to his parents.

He was adopted by Frank and Jane Thompson who lived at 135, North Bank Road, Batley. Jane was born Mirfield whilst Frank came from Dewsbury. They married in 1893 and they had one child who had died in infancy. They moved from here to Clerk Green Street, and later to 21, Melton Street, also in Batley.

Frank Thompson was a witness at the wedding of Henry and Florence.

Frank had been a popular member of the Batley Parish Church Boys' Brigade and prior to his enlistment in May 1915 worked in the spinning department of Messrs. G. and J. Stubley, Ltd.

His biological parents, Henry and Florence, had moved to 38, Church Street, Kirkstall, Leeds before the c.w.g.c. asked for details of the soldiers in the 1920's.

Service Details

Frank enrolled in May 1915 at Batley and disembarked in October 1915 and was in France for about 18 months.

The King's Own Scottish Borderers 6th (Service) Battalion was formed at Berwick on Tweed in August 1914 and came under 28th Brigade in 9th (Scottish Division). They landed at Boulogne on 12th May 1915 and on 6th May 1916 they transferred to 27th Brigade in the same Division.

Frank may have just missed the Battle of Loos 25th September 1915-8th October 1915 but did participate in many campaigns, including: -

The Battle of Albert 1st -13th July 1916

The Battle of Bazentin in which the Division captured Longueval 14th -17th July 1916



The Battle of Delville Wood 15th July-3rd September 1916

The Battle of Le Transloy 1st -18th October 1916

The First Battle of the Scarpe 9th -14th April 1917

The Second Battle of the Scarpe 23rd -24th April 1917

The Third Battle of the Scarpe 3rd -4th May 1917

Despite the flanking operation being only partly successful, the main attack planned for 3rd May (known officially as the Third battle of the Scarpe) went in as planned. Once again, part of First Army's objective was the capture of Oppy. It failed, with heavy losses. Amongst the factors was a late change of plan in which the start time was given as 3.45am (in the dark) when previous plans had called for a daylight operation: this change came too late for it to be put properly into effect and therefore "a night attack was carried out, based on dispositions suited to an attack at dawn ... it was impossible to distinguish a line of men at a distance of 50 yards until 4.05am". The advancing British infantry were however shown up in stark silhouette by a setting full moon, and made easy targets. The 63rd Division had been relieved by the 31st Division, which also took over half of the 2nd Division's front for the attack: it would now have the task of taking Oppy. When they attacked, 93rd Brigade on the right made good progress; 92nd Brigade was cut down in the morass of fallen trees, wire and trenches of the wood; and the enemy took advantage of this to counter attack which also forced 93rd Brigade back to their start point.

Frank went missing on the first day of this attack and was presumed killed in action.

Frank was awarded British War Medal 1914-20 and the Victory Medal.

He is Commemorated on Batley Parish Church, Batley War Memorial, Arras Memorial along with another 4,966 British and Commonwealth soldiers killed on the same day.

Researched by members of Batley History Group