Edmund Mark Burnell





Rank: - Rifleman

Number: - S/14043

Regiment: - King's Royal Rifle Brigade 13th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 7th August 1916 aged 23

Cemetery: - Flatiron Copse, Mametz, France. 111.3.6.

Family Details

Edmund was born in Dewsbury in 1893 the son of Edmund Mark and Florence Jane Burnell (nee Lucas). The couple had married at St. Mark's Church, Dewsbury on 13th September 1890. Edmund (senior) was a book binder and the family, Mark, Florence, Leonard, 1889, Charles Percy, 1891-1907 and Louis 1899 in 1901 was living at 23, Track Road, Batley. Edmund attended the Church Schools in Batley Carr and was associated with the Batley Carr Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday school. After leaving school he was apprenticed with Messrs. Battye and Fletcher of Dewsbury before moving to Messrs Chorley and Pickersgill, printers, of Leeds. Before 1911 Edmund and Louis with their parents had moved to live in a 3 roomed house at 7, Euston Grove, Holbeck, Leeds and Edmund was a printers cutter, but before 1915 his parents and Louis had moved to 8, Maxwell Avenue, Batley Carr. Edmund went to work for Messrs. Lever Brothers, Port Sunlight.

Service Details

His service details although damaged have survived. Edmund had been accepted for the West Riding Division "Reserve" Army Corps on the 3rd November 1914 but because of his poor eyesight which was right eye 6/9 left eye 6/18 he was discharged. He attested into the Rifle Brigade on 20th October 1915 giving his details as being 22 years and 252 days living at 3, Trafalgar Drive, Bebington, Cheshire. He was 5 feet 2 inches tall and had a distinguishing mark of a mole an inch above the right nipple. He disembarked on the 19th February 1916 and joined his battalion on the field on 3rd March. He was admitted to hospital from the field on the 10th April but was quickly discharged.

A letter was received from his officer on Thursday noon 17th August 1915: -

"I am much grieved to have to inform you that your son was killed early on the morning of August 7th Rifleman Burnell was a most excellent soldier, and I offer you my sincere sympathy on losing such a fine son. All his comrades wish me to convey their sympathy also. I am pleased to be able to tell you that he suffered no pain whatever and he was killed instantly by a shell which landed right in a trench where he was talking to some companions. His grave is marked, and he was buried by our Chaplain during the afternoon of the 7th "

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

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Batley Carr, Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, France, Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group