Leonard Calvert





Rank: -Private

Number: - 242169

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Killed in action: - 29/04/1918 Age: 26 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 108-111

Batley News, 25 May 1918. Photo courtesy Jane Roberts

Family Details

Leonard was born in Howden Clough, Birstall on the 3rd August 1891 the son of George Henry and Annie Calvert nee Oldroyd who had married on the 25th January 1890 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall.

John was born in 1890 followed by Leonard and Ida born August 1892.

Leonard attended Birstall Central Schools and afterwards, when his parents moved to Savile Town, he was a scholar at Jubilee Schools.

In 1901 the family was living at 13, Clarence terrace, Thornhill Lees and his Adwalton born father was a power loom tuner. Before 1911 the family was living in a five roomed home at 12, Calder Road, Ravensthorpe and Leonard was employed as a weaver.

When he lived in Ravensthorpe, he attended Ravensthorpe Church and was connected with the Ravensthorpe Wesleyans Cricket Club. The family moved to live at 18, Warwick Road, Batley and Leonard worked at Messrs. G.H. Hirst & Co., Bright's Mill, Batley (this was opposite Batley Variety Club).

Service Details

Leonard enlisted at Dewsbury and had been in the army over two years when he was killed. He was invalided home from France with trench feet but went back to France at Easter 1918.

In 1918 his division fought at: -
The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March), The First Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March)*, which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918.*
The Battle of Messines (10-11 April), The Second Battle of Kemmel (25-26 April), *which were phases of the Battles of the Lys 1918.*

He made a will on the 11th April 1918 leaving £25 to his fiancée Miss Laycock and the rest of his money and property to his mother, father, brother and sister. A brief article published in the Dewsbury Reporter on 25 May 1918 indicated that Leonard initially had an identified grave and that, immediately following his death, his possessions were returned home. His obituary states that Miss Laycock of Eastfield Road, Northorpe, who was Leonard's fiancée, received a letter from Private G Metcalfe. Private Metcalfe told how "...Leonard had been left out of the line to stay with the transport where he had the misfortune to be killed." He went on to say that he had helped to bury Leonard, and had "...taken possession of Leonard's pocket wallet from which I got your address and also a letter which you had sent to him. I will get his personal belongings and send them to his home as soon as I can."

Cricketer Killed While on Transport Duty.

Private Leonard Calvert (26), K.O.Y.L.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Calvert, 18, Warwick Road, Batley Carr, is reported by a comrade to have been killed in action whilst on transport work. The informant says Pte. Calvert was buried with some more comrades who were killed at the same time. Born at Howden Clough, he attended Birstall Central Schools, and afterwards, when his parents went to reside at Savile Town, he was a scholar at Jubilee Schools. He had been in the Army over two years. He was invalided home from France with trench feet, and went abroad again at Easter. Formerly a tuner at Messrs. G. H. Hirst and Co.'s Bright's Mills, he was connected with Ravensthorpe Church, and also with Ravensthorpe Wesleyan Cricket Club

His brother, Private John Calvert, now in hospital in Kent, with a wound in the left arm, was formerly a tuner at Messrs. J. Newsome and Sons, Batley Carr.

It was reported to his parents by a friend that Leonard was killed in action on the 29th April 1918 whilst on transport work during a bombardment near Mount Kemmel.

His brother Private John Calvert was in hospital in Kent with a wound to his left arm. He had been a tuner at Messrs. J. Newsome and Sons, Batley Carr.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Carr Wesleyan Church (MacKenzie) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group