George Arthur Carson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 28067

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

Killed in Action: - 16th September 1916 aged 19

Memorial: - Thiepval, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11c to 12 A

Family Details

George Arthur was born in Earlsheaton in 1897 the son of Richard and Florence Carson (nee Beevers) who married in 1894. Richard had previously been married to Annie Elizabeth Shaw who died 1893. They had Arthur James (1879), Mary E. (1881) and Sarah born 1890. George's siblings were Jane (1899), Elsie (1901), Annie (1903), Harmon (1906) and Ernest (1909). According to the 1911 census another child had died in infancy.

George was well known in Hanging Heaton and was called up under the Derby Scheme. He was actively associated with Hanging Heaton United Methodist Church and Sunday School and a popular member of the church cricket team. He was also a member of the Sunday School Glee Party and the Band of Hope.

He was a piecener at J.T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills before moving to work at Messrs. Fenton, Headfield Mills, Savile Town. He resided with his parents at 136, Bromley Street, Hanging Heaton.

Service Details

George Arthur enrolled in Batley in March 1916 at the same time as Willie Summerscales and Arnold Summerscales (killed 17th July 1917) and went for initial training with the K.O.Y.L.I. in England together. They were later transferred to different units. George embarked on the 27th June 1916 for France.

He would have almost immediately seen action at the Battle of Albert which took place between 1st and 13th July 1916, immediately followed by the Battle of Bazentin Ridge. These were followed by the Battle of Flers-Courcelette which took place between 15th - 22nd September and where George Arthur no doubt would have been killed.

When his parents had not received any news for several weeks, they made enquiries. One of his comrades could not provide any information although he had made extensive enquiries.

After five weeks they received a letter from the Captain of the Company: -

"*In reply to your letter I am sorry to inform you that your son Private George A. Carson was reported missing after an action on September 16th. I have made*

enquiries but regret that I cannot find any further news of him whatever. I have the greatest possible sympathy with you. Only last night I received the same news about my dearest friend. It makes me feel everything is too terrible to be true. One can only hope not to become too embittered by it all."

In the 2nd December issue of the Batley News a letter was reproduced from a Private in the King 's Own Scottish Borderers.

"Your son, I see, is reported missing. I thought I would let you know for sure your boy was killed in the Big Advance in September sometime. I found his body and buried it, and gave it a mark of respect. It was all I could do, as it lay in the open. I took his particulars before I buried him. I got these particulars from a diary which he kept, and his pay book. I hope you will excuse me writing to you but so many lads are missing and I know their friends would like to know for sure what has happened to them. Two of my chums have been missing since September. "

George Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Ebenezer Methodist Chapel, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Thiepval and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group