George Arthur Cartwright





Rank: - 2nd Lt.

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) (Formerly L/Cpl 11649 East Kent Regiment, Pte 6944 Royal Fusiliers, Public Schools Bn.) 2/7th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 28/11/1917 Age: 24 years

Cemetery: - Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France 111.D.25

"TILL THE DAY BREAKS AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY"

Batley News, 8 Dec 1917 (photo)

Family Details

George Arthur was born in Hanging Heaton on the 5 Jan 1893 the son of George and Eliza Ann Cartwright nee Shaw. The couple had married at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield on 27th July 1878.

George Arthur was baptised at St. Paul's, Hanging Heaton on the 17th June 1894 on the same day as his siblings, Sarah Ann born 28th January 1885 and Nellie Shaw born 5th August 1887. Their parents gave the address as 16, Willow Terrace, Oaks Road, Soothill and George was employed as a miner's deputy.

Hedley was born in the latter part of 1878 but sadly died in April 1879, Matilda was born in 1880 in Mirfield before the family moved to live in Soothill. Clara was born in 1882, Ernest 1890, Frederick Gladwin Shaw 1891, Florence 1895, Percival 1897 and Harold1899.

According to the 1911 census Clara was working for the County Council as a head teacher, Nellie was working as a teacher for the Borough Council and Ernest, Frederick and George Arthur were all railway clerks, Florence a shop assistant whilst their father was a colliery deputy.

George Arthur attended Mill Lane Council School and then went to Almondbury Grammar School, Huddersfield. He was a Sunday scholar and Band of Hope member at Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel and later became a Band of Hope Foreign Missions secretary. Before enlisting he was employed by Mr. Joe Kaye, Midland Mills, Savile Town, Dewsbury as a clerk.

Service Details

George Arthur enlisted on the 1st May 1915 into the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He went to France in November 1915 and was wounded on the 13th July 1916 at Trones Wood whilst acting as a bomber. A shell burst near him and he temporarily lost his sight in his right eye. He was struck by fragments in his nose and leg and was sent home for hospital treatment and made a good recovery.

He was recommended for a commission by his colonel and reported in October 1916 for training as a cadet. He was gazetted on 14th April 1917 and returned to France the following month.

The last message the family received from him was a field card dated November 26th said he was quite safe. A letter dated 25th November said he was going up the line and he hoped he would have his usual good luck.

An Army Chaplain at a Casualty Clearing Station wrote:-

"I regret to inform you that your son Lt. Cartwright died of wounds in his abdomen on the 28th and was buried in the military cemetery nearby. Everything possible was done for him when he arrived here but he was beyond recovery. A cross will be placed on his grave and a record kept. The news of his death will be a great blow to you but I pray that God will give you grace to sustain and comfort you. His grace is sufficient for all our needs. Please accept my deepest sympathy."

At the time of his death his brother was with the Royal Ordnance Division and was in hospital in Alexandria with an injured foot following an accident, Frederick was with the Army Pay Corps at York and Harold was in training with the Notts. and Derby's.

His parents later moved to Rock Mount, Soothill and Mansfield Villa, Newley, Yorkshire.

George Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group