Albert Samuel Champion





Rank: - Private

Number: - 36065

Regiment: - Royal Welsh Fusiliers 9th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 03/11/1916 Age: 26 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 4 A

Batley News, 18 Nov 1916 (photo). Dewsbury Reporter, 18 Nov 1916 (photo).

Family Details

Albert Samuel was born in Stanningley in July 1890 the son of Benjamin Albert and Martha Alice Champion (nee Duffield, m. 31 Dec 1880, Gray's Inn Road St. Jude, Camden). In 1891 the family had moved to Yorkshire from the St. Pancras area of London because Benjamin was a railway porter and would have moved with his job. Elizabeth Alice was born in the St. Pancras area in 1882 followed by Martha Grace in 1884 before they moved to Bradford and the birth of Louise Emily in 1887 and to Stanningley before the birth of Albert in 1890. His mother died in October 1896.

Before 1901 the family had moved to 44, Turner's Buildings, Howden Clough and Albert attended Birstall Central Schools. He was associated with Howden Clough Wesleyans and was very well known in Birstall and district. On the 9th December 1905 his father married Hannah Scholefield at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill. In 1911 Albert was living with his father and step mother at 43, Mann's Buildings, Howden Clough in a two roomed home. His father was a porter for the Great Northern Railway at Howden Clough Station and Albert was working as a pit banks-man at a colliery. Newspaper reports state he worked at Upper Birstall Railway Station but when he enlisted in 1915, he was living at The Hostel, West Bar, Sheffield and working as a Bioscope Operator.

Service Details

Albert had joined the Batley Territorial's in 1912 but he was initially rejected on medical grounds at outbreak of war, but in September 1915 he succeeded in enlisting. He embarked for France on the 24th February 1916 going to Etaples the next day. On the 10th March he joined the 9th Battalion Welsh Fusiliers in the field.

In 1916 they fought on the Somme at: -
The Battle of Albert in which the Division captured La Boisselle (1st -13th July)
The attacks on High Wood (20th -25th July)
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge (23rd July-3rd September),

The Battle of the Ancre Heights (1st October – 11th November)

A sergeant from his platoon wrote to his father: -

"It is with much regret but it is my painful duty to inform you of your son's death. It is very sad but I trust the Lord will give you strength to bear this terrible blow. He was in my platoon, and we are all broken- hearted over one who was liked so well. He was a good soldier, and did all he was told. He was liked and respected by all who knew him, and he always had a kindly word for all. His thoughts were always of his mother and father and home. We all send you our deepest sympathy in the great loss you have sustained. It will be a great comfort to you to know that he lived a nice life while he was with us. I cannot write much more for it hurts me."

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

Albert is remembered with Honour at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill; Howden Clough Methodist Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group