James William Chappell



Rank: - Private

Number: - 31698

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment (Formerly 3943 West Riding Regiment) 1/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 13/10/1918 Age: 23 years

Cemetery: - York Cemetery, Haspres, Nord, France B.17

Batley Reporter, 25 Oct 1918

Family Details

James William was born in Batley on the 22nd December 1894 the son of Arthur and Mary Chappell (nee Green, m. 30 Jul 1892, Batley, St. Thomas). He was baptised at St. Thomas's Church on the 9th January 1898 on the same day as his sister Lilie born 7th October 1897 when the family lived at Mount Pleasant and Arthur was a dyer. He had an older sister Edith Ellen born 1893 and a younger brother, Edward born 1899 when they lived at 22, Denison Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley.

Before the census was taken in 1901 the family had moved to live at 7, Ward's Hill, Batley. They moved to live at 10, Wellington Street within the next decade and Arthur had become a caretaker working for the Borough Council whilst James William was working as a cloth finisher. Florence was born in 1902 and Susannah in September 1905. Lilie died in July 1905 and his father, Arthur, died in September 1916.

The family later moved to 118, Commercial Street, Batley, Yorks.

Service Details

James William enlisted in Mirfield in 1914 and disembarked in France in 1916.

In 1918 the 1/5th battalion returned to the fighting during the Allied Hundred Days Offensive. During the pursuit to the River Selle, 49th Division was ordered to attack on 12 October, but patrols found that the enemy had disappeared, so the barrage was cancelled and zero hour was brought forward. The division established a line along the edge of the high ground overlooking the Selle, the opposite bank of which was strongly held. However, when 147(2nd West Riding) and 148 Bdes went forward next morning they were observed and suffered severely from a German barrage and fire from machine guns across the river that had been missed by the British barrage. They made little progress and were eventually withdrawn to a position only slightly ahead of their starting line. However, the division seized Saulzoir and established small bridgeheads over the Selle on the night on 14/15 October. James William had been killed just before this success.

James William was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group