Sargent Clarkson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 39855

Regiment: - Gloucester Regiment (formerly 3162 K.O.Y.L.I.) 1/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 9th October 1918 aged 39

Cemetery: - Busigny Communal, France 111.B.11.

"EVER REMEMBERED"

Batley News, 26 Oct 1918, 2 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Sargent was born in Horbury in 1880 the son of Wakefield born Marriott and Emma (nee Bradley) who came from Horbury.

He was baptised on the 13th December 1880 at St. Peter and St. Leonard's Church, Horbury when his father' s occupation was described as a gardener. Marriott was born in Wakefield but travelled around England working as a gardener.

The family was living at Church Street, Gawthorpe in 1881 with older siblings Albert Marriott (1869-1882) born Kent, Wallace "William " (1870) born Cambridge, Margaret (1874 born Barnsley) and Herbert (1876) also born Barnsley.

Marriott was previously married in 1866. Louisa and the elder children were theirs. Marriott and Emma married in 1873.Walter Bradley was born in 1874 at Monk Bretton By 1891 the family had moved to Track Road, Batley and the additions to the family were Charles F. (1882), Maud Louisa (1883) both born at Ossett and Joseph (1884) born Dewsbury.

Sargent attended Purlwell School and was in the choir at Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel.

The family was living at 140, Purlwell Lane, Batley in 1901 and both Sargent and Charles were working as woollen piecener s . However a decade later the family had moved yet again to a seven roomed house at Greenwood Villas, Trinity Street, Batley Carr, although only Sargent and Joseph were still living with their parents. The two brothers were cloth warehousemen and their father a retired gardener.

In April 1909 Sargent was a witness at the marriage of his sister Maud Louisa to Albert Naylor at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr.

Marriott died in 1912 and Sargent went to lodge with his sister who lived at Jesmond Dene, Purlwell Lane whilst working in the warehouse at Messrs. R. Brearley and Co. Queen Street Mills . He was also a member of Batley Working Men's Club.

Emma Clarkson married Joshua Exley at Thornhill in 1913 and died in1931.

Sargents effects were left to Emma Exley.

Service Details.

Sargent enlisted in Batley in 1915. At first he was Private 3162 in the 2/5th Battalion of the K.O.Y.L.I. transferring to the 8th K.O.Y.L.I. and later becoming 39855 in the 1/5th Gloucestershire Battalion," The Glosters".

In September 1918 the Battalion returned to France from Italy to join the 25th Division. On 3rd October the Battalion was near St.Emilie and on the 5th went into action near Hargicourt, securing several objectives.

On the 6th of October at 16.30 hours the battalion was ordered to take Beaurevoir which two Brigades had failed to take. At 18.15 the battalion moved into assembly position under machine gun fire and heavy artillery barrage. They advanced towards Beaurevoir in artillery formation. The main resistance was from machine gun fire and by 19.15 hours a line was consolidated with the Worcester's 200 Degrees east of the town. They had one officer killed by their own barrage on the Railway Embankment and one wounded. There were nine other ranks killed, forty two wounded and one missing. From 19.00 hours until 01.00 next day no enemy fire was heard so gave them time to consolidate. At 01.00 hours the enemy started to shell the west of the village but one platoon attempted to raid an advanced enemy position but met with strong resistance and suffering casualties of two killed and three wounded they withdrew.

They remained in the line all day on the 7th which was fine during the day but had fine drizzle in the evening. There was heavy shelling on their positions and on the village in the morning and the evening. At 01.20 hours on the 8th October the battalion moved to sunken road north of Estrees arriving at 04.30 hours without any further casualties.

They commenced an attack along the whole line advancing about five miles. At around 03.30 hours on the 9th October, which was fine and cold with a mist, they moved into positions South of Seraing Farm.

At 5.20am the barrage opened and closely supported by the Worcester s they moved towards Maretz. By 6.30 am the barrage of heavies had lifted and C and D companies pushed forward to occupy the west outskirts of the town. The barrage of the 66th Division which had arrived 30 minutes late descended and after causing many casualties in C Company compelled the forward companies to withdraw. After it had lifted the battalion pushed forward again meeting very little resistance until it reached the eastern part of the village. Here it met with stubborn resistance from machine gun fire and snipers but after some heavy fighting the battalion secured the town and consolidated under heavy fire. Sergeant was killed in action on the day his Battalion captured Maretz during the Battle of the Hindenburg Line.

Sargent was awarded the British Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial, St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell Wesleyan Chapel, Batley Working Men's Club and Busigny Communal Cemetery.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group