Herbert Crawshaw







Rank: - Private

Number: - 33199

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion

Died of acute nephritis: - 27th January 1917 aged 29 years

Cemetery: - Wanquetin Communal Cemetery Extension 1.B.9

Batley News, 3 Feb 1917 (photo) Batley Reporter, 9 Feb 1917

Family Details

Herbert was born in Staincliffe on the 12th May 1887 the son of Henry and Elizabeth Crawshaw nee Greaves, who had married on 15th February 1873 at St. Mary's Church, Mirfield. He was baptised at Christ Church, Staincliffe on 12th August 1887 which was the same day as his brother, James Arthur, born 6th July 1880. They lived at Occupation Lane, Kilpin Hill and Henry's occupation was given as a woollen spinner.

In 1891 the Heckmondwike born couple was living with their family at 96, Occupation Lane, Kilpin Hill and Henry was employed as a card cleaner. Herbert's older siblings except for Josiah who was born 1874 in Ravensthorpe, were all born in Batley, Martha 1877, Florence Edith 1878 and James Arthur 1880.

Henry died in January 1899 and before 1901 his mother went to work as a blanket weaver and 13-year-old Herbert was working as a spinner piecer.

He had attended Staincliffe Church Day School but afterwards attended Staincliffe Wesleyan Sunday Schools.

In 1911 Elizabeth was living with her children, Martha, Florence and Herbert and nephew James Greaves at 72, Victoria Road, Dewsbury.

In 1912 Herbert married Annie Garnham and went to live at Track Mount, Track Road, Batley, Dorothy and Ellen were born in 1914 but sadly Ellen lived only a short time. He was equally well known in Staincliffe, Batley Carr and Dewsbury.

He worked, from boyhood for Mr. Ned Ramsden, painter and decorator, Halifax Road, Dewsbury until he enlisted on July 14th 1916.

Service Details

Herbert enlisted under the Derby Scheme on 14th July 1916 and went to France in October 1916. The Battalion had fought at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette which began on 15th September 1916 and lasted for one week, this being the last large scale offensive on the Battle of the Somme1916.

On January 24th 1917 his wife received a letter from him saying he was in good health and spirits.

She received a message from 41, Casualty Clearing Station B.E.F. dated January 26th 1917

Dear Mrs. Crawshaw, -- I am sorry to tell you that your husband has been admitted to this hospital dangerously ill with acute nephritis and I am very anxious about him. It will comfort you to know he is having every attention and everything possible will be done for him. I will write again very soon as I know you'll be anxious. He sends much love and bids me to tell you not to worry.I am so sorry for you but we shall do our best. –Yours truly, B.J.D. Reid Sister-in-charge.

The next day she received another letter dated January 27th

Dear Mrs. Crawshaw, -- My thoughts are with you, for I know how keenly you must feel it when I tell you the sad news about your husband. After writing to you yesterday he gradually grew much worse. Everything that could be done was done and he had every care and attention but all was of no avail and he died peacefully at 2.36p.m. this afternoon. I feel for you very much indeed. He will be buried in a little village cemetery near here and a cross will be put up to mark the spot. May God give you courage and grace to bear your sorrow bravely—With my heartfelt sympathy, B.J.D. Reid

At the time of his death his mother was living in Halifax Road and his paternal grandmother 93-year-old Mrs. Ellen Crawshaw lived in Occupation Lane. His brother, James Arthur was serving in Salonika.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Staincliffe Church of England Junior School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group