Charlie Crossland





Rank: - Private

Number: - 242940

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Formerly 6221 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) 1/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 19/07/1917 Age: 30 years

Memorial: - Nieuport Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Batley News, 4 Aug 1917 photo but dark Batley Rep 4/8/1917 (photo)

Family Details

Charlie was born in 1886 the youngest son of Huddersfield born Edward and Ellen Crossland nee Smith who had married at Batley Parish Church on the 21st May 1864.

Hannah was born in1864, Abraham Oxley 1865 but sadly died June 1867, Emma 1867, Selina 1869, Mary Ann 1872, Harry 1875, Mary 1877, Fred 1879, Lizzie 1882, Edith 1884 and Charlie.

In 1891 the family with Ellen saying she is married, head of household was living at 24, Albion Street, Batley. She was still married, head of household in 1901, but before the 1911 census was taken, she and her four youngest children had moved to live in a five roomed home at 22, Whittaker Street, Batley. She stated that she was a widow and that one has her eleven children had died. Charlie was working as a shop boy in 1901 and a woollen warper in 1911. Edward had died in March 1906 and Ellen died in December 1915.

Charlie married Emma Naylor on the 5th April 1915 at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Talbot Street, Batley.

For fourteen years Charlie was a member of Talbot Street Primitive Methodist Church choir and was very well know and highly respected. With the employees of Messrs. Joseph Newsome and Sons, where he worked as a warper he was also very popular and was until he was called up the conductor of an employee's "glee party" of which he was the organiser.

Service Details

Charlie enlisted in September 1916 and went to France in December 1916.

The 1/5th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry came under the orders of 148th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division.

In 1917 they took part in Operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush).

His wife received a letter just as she was returning from holiday. The letter was written on the 22nd July and said that he had been killed by shell fire during the night of the 19th.The writer added: -

"It may be some consolation to you to know he suffered no pain. He was laid to rest on the 20th in a British cemetery just behind the line. I know this news will be a very sad blow to you, but he died honestly serving his King and country."

Charlie was awarded the British War Medal, 1914-18. Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group