Charles Edward Crowther





Rank: - Private

Number: - 19666

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment (Formerly 17461 KOYLI) 1/4th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 13/04/1918 Age: 32 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 125-128

Batley News, 18 May 1918, 25 May 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Charles Edward was born at Walton, Yorkshire on the 2nd January 1886 the son of John Edward Crowther and Sarah Jane Crowther (nee Spur, marriage registered Dewsbury, Sep 1882). He was baptised at St. Helen's, Sandal Magna on the 25th July 1886. He had an elder sister Florence Amelia born in Dewsbury on the 9th April 1884.She later married Willie Hemingway.

John Edward had previously been married to Mary Loryman and had children Mary A c.1872, Grace 1874 and Tom 1876. In 1881 he was a publican living at Bradford Road, Batley.

In 1891 the two children were living at Greenside, Walton with their uncle John Spurr. Sarah Jane died in c.1887, John Edward was a fish and game dealer in West town and died in 1898. According to newspaper reports Charles attended Jubilee Council School.

In 1901 he was living at the Fleece Hotel with his uncle Joshua Crowther who was the licensed victullar. He married Evelyn Clark in the 1st Qtr 1909 in Leeds District and was living at 5, Every Street, Green Road, Leeds in 1911 and was working as a publican's waiter. Arthur Edward was born in May 1910 followed by Reginald in April 1911.

The family returned to live in Westtown and for over 18 months before enlisting worked as a conductor on the Thornhill Tram route.

Service Details

Charles Edward enlisted in September 1914 and spent three birthdays in the trenches and was wounded in November 1917.

In 1918 his Division fought at:-

The Battle of Estaires (9-11 April)
The Battle of Messines (10-11 April)
The Battle of Bailleul in which the Division defended Neuve Eglise (13-15 April)

A letter from an officer was sent to his sister (Florence Amelia), Mrs. W. Hemingway at 83, Granville Terrace, Batley: -

"Pte. Crowther was killed instantly by a machine gun bullet on April 13th. He was one of the best men in his platoon, a very brave man, and a very clever Lewis gunner. I am terribly sorry to lose such a fine fellow."

In his effects were left to his wife and when probate was granted in 1922, she was the wife of Reginald Wilson of 83, Granville Terrace, Bradford Road, Batley.

Charles Edward as awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group