Russell Crowther



Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 287035

Regiment: - Royal Garrison Artillery 34th Siege Battery

Killed in Action: - 13/07/1918 Age: 17 years

Cemetery: - Bac-du-Sud British Cemetery, Bailleulval, Pas de Calais, France 11.E.18

"AH! YES, HE'S GONE HIS HAPPY SPIRIT'S FLED AND NOW HE'S WITH THE SILENT DEAD"

Batley News, 27 Jul 1918

Family Details

Russell was born in Batley in late 1900 the son of Robinson and Annie Drake Crowther nee Wilby who had married on the 11th July 1891 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall, David was born in 1894 followed by May in 1898 and the family was living at 1, Upper Batley Lane, Batley when the 1901 census was taken and Gomersal born Robinson was employed as a stoker of a stationary engine.

Tom Wilby was born in 1904 and the family was still living in the 2 roomed home at 1, Wilby's Place, Upper Batley Lane, Batley.

Russell attended Brownhill Day School and Mount Tabor Sunday School. After leaving school he worked for Messrs Taylor Yielding & Co. Birstall. He was an enthusiastic junior footballer and played with Birstall United and St. Mary's Football Clubs.

Service Details

Russell enlisted under age early in the war into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but was sent home after he had reached France when it was discovered he was under age.

He managed to re-enlist in January 1918 and went to France six weeks before he died.

An officer wrote to his parents: -

"Your son was killed on the morning of July 13th by bullet wounds. He was alone in a dug-out, at the time, having been sent there by an N.C.O. to clean rifles. Unfortunately, we are unable to say how it occurred. Although he had only been with us a short time, he had the makings of a first-class gunner."

Russell was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal is remembered with Honour at St Saviour's Church, Brownhill and Batley War Memorial



Researched by members of
Batley History Group