Wilfred Dalby.





Rank: -Gunner

Number: -167838

Battalion: - Royal Field Artillery "B" Bty 86th Brigade

Killed in Action: - 22nd August 1917 aged 19

Remembered with Honour: - Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 4-6 and 162

Batley News, 15 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Wilfred was born in 1897 in Keighley the son of John William and Annie Matilda (nee Grange) John William was from Horsforth and Annie from Birstwith, Yorkshire. His father had joined the police force in January 1884.

He was first appointed to Upper Agbrigg moving to Keighley in July 1897 and to West Morley in 1899, being transferred to Dewsbury in January 1902 and leaving the Force in February 1910.

Annie Matilda died in 1899 and John William married Fanny Bailey who came from Birmingham in 1900.

John William was a police constable in the West Riding Constabulary and by 1901 he had moved to Sowerby Bridge with his family. His eldest three children Fred (1891), Harold (1893) and Eliza May (1896) were all born at Grange Moor.

A decade later the family had come to live at 58, Beaumont Street, Mount Pleasant and all the siblings were working as mill hands for woollen manufacturers, Wilfred being a twister on.

As a boy he had attended Purlwell Council School later becoming a chorister at St.Andrew's Church.

Before enlisting he was employed as a miller at Messrs. J.T&J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mill, Batley.

Service Details

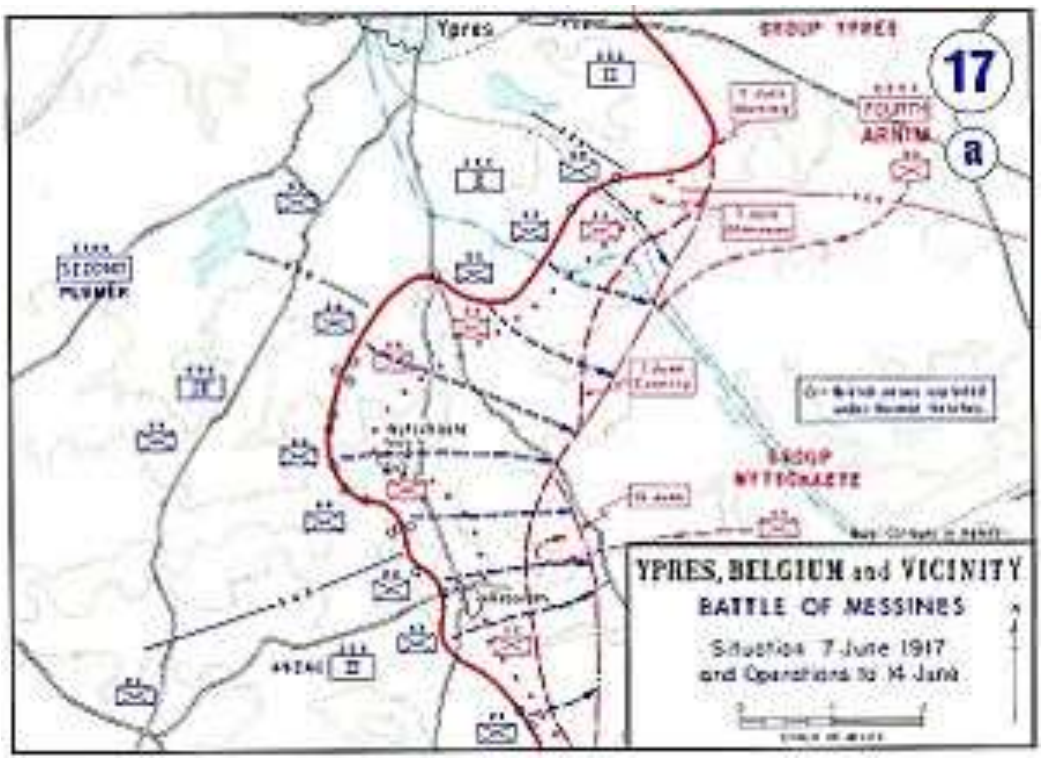
Gunner Wilfred joined up in Batley in August 1915 and was drafted to the Front the first week in December 1915.The 86th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery came under the command of 19th (Western Division).

In 1916 the Division fought at the Battles of Albert in which the 19th Western Division made attacks on High Wood, Battles of La Boisselle, Pozieres Ridge, Ancre Heights, Ancre and in June 1917 Battle of Messines.

On August 22nd there was heavy fighting on the Ypres front and the British advanced 500 yards on a mile front.

Indication came from a survivor of Wilfred's Battery that he was killed by shell fire on 22nd August 1917.

At the time of his death his brother Fred of the K.O.S.B. had been wounded by shrapnel and was in a convalescent home in Ireland and Lance Cpl.Harold Dalby of the Royal Scots Fusiliers had been wounded three times, saw service in the "Big Push" of July 1916 and was disabled.



Wilfred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered on Batley War Memorial, St.Andrew's Purlwell and Tyne Cot Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group