George Alfred Dale



Rank: - Private

Number: - 204540

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 2/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds sustained 28th March 1918: - 31st March 1918 aged 20 years

Cemetery: - St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France P. IX. G. 6A.

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Batley Reporter, 5 Apr 1918

Family Details

George Alfred was born in York in the St Dennis area in c.1898 the son of Alfred and Mary Jane Dale (nee Fell, m. 1879, York) of York and baptised at St. Crux's Church, York on the 27th March 1898.

Alfred was a glass maker and in 1901 the family was living at 33, Duke of York Place, Long Close Lane, York. He was the youngest in the family and his elder siblings were Mary Jane 1882, Ada 1886, Albert (Victor) 1888, Florence Edith 1890, Arthur 1893. Edward born in 1885 had died shortly after birth. Alfred, his father, died in 1906.

Before 1911 his mother had married George Marshall and she and her three sons were living with him at 40, Primrose Hill, Batley.

Service Details

George Alfred enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war and went to France in January 1917.

The 2/5th Battalion was formed at Huddersfield in September 1914 as a home service ("second line") unit They moved to Derbyshire on the1st March 1915 and came under orders of 186th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. They moved to Thoresby Park (Ollerton) in May 1915, moving in October 1915 to Retford, November 1915 to Newcastle, January 1916 to Salisbury Plain, June 1916 Halesworth, October 1916 to Bedford and landed in France in January 1917.

In I917 they fought at:-

The Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)
The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)
The Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20 – 21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood 27 – 28 November)

In 1918 they fought at:-
The Battle of Bapaume (25 March)
The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March)
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

George Alfred was admitted to hospital on the 29th March at Rouen and sadly died there on March 31st 1918.

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

George Alfred is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group