Ernest Day





Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 202003

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own) 2/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 12th April 1918

Cemetery: - Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Pas-de- Calais, France.1X.C.5

"EVER REMEMBERED"

Batley News, 25 May 1918 (photo). Dewsbury Reporter 18 May 1918

Family Details

Ernest was born in Batley in 1895 the youngest son of Saville and Lydia Day (nee Spink). In 1901 he was living at 9, Walkers Mount, Batley with his parents and elder brother Arthur who was born in 1889. The family moved to Batley Carr where Ernest attended Warwick Road and Carlton Road Schools. Saville was the manager of Mr. Fred Ellis's carbonising department. They later moved to live in Hartley Street, Dewsbury.

Before 1911 the family had moved to Cleethorpes and Saville was a shopkeeper at 43, Cosgrove Street with seven rooms and Lydia and Ernest was assisting him in the business.

Mr. Harry Day, rag merchant of Bradford Road, Batley Carr was his uncle and Mrs. B. Kirkby of Warwick Road his aunt.

In 1916 he married a Grimsby girl, Phyllis Margaret Bell.

Service Details

The 2/5th Battalion came under the orders of 185th Brigade, 62nd (2nd West Riding Division).

In October 1916 they went to Bedford and finally landed at Le Havre in January 1917.

In 1917 they took part in 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 took part in: -

The Battle of Bapaume (25 March) and the First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March).

On the 1st April 1918 the battalion arrived at Coigneux and rested for the day except for cleaning the equipment. On the 3rd they moved to Marieux reporting that the weather was dull but dry, moving to Essart on the 7th and moving to the front line.

His wife received a letter from a lieutenant of his company wrote to his wife: -

"*I am writing these few lines to offer you my sincere sympathy on the untimely death of your husband. He was one of the most cheerful and reliable of the N.C.O.' s in the company and could always be relied upon when we were under the worst of conditions. He has been greatly missed and his loss is a sad one for the company, His old comrades wish me to assure you of their deepest sympathy. He would have gained further promotion had he lived."*

His parents had moved to live at 34, Albert Rd., Cleethorpes, Lincs.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Warwick Road School and Batley War Memorial addenda 2019.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group