Clifford Dewhirst





Rank: - Private

Number: - 202015

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Formerly 4672) "D" Coy. 2/4th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 28/03/1918 Age: 21 years

Cemetery: - Gommecourt British Cemetery No 2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France 111.A.

"AT REST"

Batley News, 25 May 1918 (photo), 11 Jan 1919, 25 Jan 1919

Family Details

Clifford was born in Birstall on the 18th August 1897 the son of Fred and Mary Elizabeth Dewhirst nee Tweedale who had married on the 19th July 1890 at Birstall, St. Peter's Church. He was baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel, Birstall on the 7th September 1897.

In 1901 the family was living at Newton Lodge, Outwood where Batley born Fred, was a coal miner hewer below ground.

James William was born in 1892, Ruth Annie October 1893 died aged 16 days in November, Thomas Roland born April 1895 died aged 15 days, Jane born 1899 was buried at Outwood aged five years on 7th September 1904, Phoebe 1901.

Before 1911 the family had returned to Birstall and was living at 3, Low Lane, Birstall and Clifford was described as a labourer at a cloth printer which was probably Dewhirst's at Brookroyd.

Clifford had attended Birstall Central School and Birstall Wesleyan Chapel and worked at Howden Clough Colliery. The family moved to live at 86, Brookroyd Lane, Brownhill.

Service Details

Clifford enlisted under age in 1915 at Wakefield and went to France around September 1916 according to newspaper reports. The 2/4th Battalion however was in January 1916 at Larkhill and June 1916 sent to Flixton Park near Bungay Moving again in October 1916 to Wellingborough and landed at Le Havre on 15th 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 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

Clifford was posted missing on the 28th March 1918.

His parents kept appealing in the local newspapers hoping for some news of their son.

His elder brother James William was wounded in 1918 and was in hospital in Kent.
Clifford was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St Saviour's Church, Brownhill; Birstall War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group