Robert Smith Dixon



Rank: - Ex-Pioneer

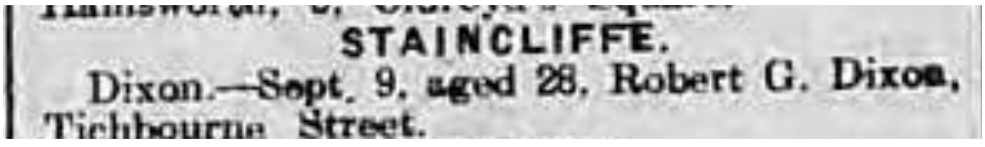
Number: - 221857

Regiment: - Royal Engineers

Died in Pensions Hospital, Dewsbury: - 09/09/1919 Age: 28 years

Cemetery:-Batley, Yorkshire R 555

Batley News, 13 Sep 1919 (classifieds)



STAINCLIFFE.

Dixon.—Sept. 9, aged 28, Robert G. Dixon, Tichbourne Street.

Family Details

Robert Smith was born in c.1891 in Spennymoor Co. Durham and aged 10 years was a boarder at the home of John B. Hartley of 6, Albert Street, Willington, Co. Durham. Before 1911 he was a boarder at the home of Headley Holmes, a coal hewer of 7, Tichbourne Street, Batley and was working underground as a coal hurrier.

Robert married Emma Eliza Collinson on the 5th September 1918 at Batley Parish Church giving his occupation as a soldier of 7, Tichbourne Street, Staincliffe and his father James Smith, deceased, who was a former miner. The couple went to live at 7, Tichbourne Street, Batley.

Service Details

Robert Smith Dixon attested on the 1st February 1916 and mobilised on the 5th January 1917 giving his address as 5, South Terrace, Bishop Auckland, his occupation as a Post Office telegraph labourer, being 24 years and 11 months in age, and 5 feet 3 inches tall and his religion Church of England. His next of kin was given as Robert Taylor of Colliery Row, Ludhoe, Co. Durham, which then changed to 82, Charles Street, Spennymoor. Later his next of kin was changed to Mrs. Hedley Holmes of 7, Tichbourne Street, Bunkers Lane, Staincliffe, who he had boarded with since before 1911 . A reference was sent to the recruiting office by his employer at the Post Office to say he had been employed by them since January 18th 1915 and that in the last few months of his service he had been performing the full duties of a Wireman.

On the 29th April 1917 he was sent to East Africa arriving at Durban on 11th June 1917. On the 21st September he was admitted to hospital at Lindi with malaria he was discharged on the 1st October only to be admitted again at Mingeys on the 29th October. He was eventually sent to South Africa in December 1917 and invalided to England on the 30th January 1918.

On the 21st April 1918 he was transferred to “P” class Army Reserve for work at Soothill Wood Colliery, Batley. The address given was 30, Peel Street, Batley later changed to 54, Hume Street, Batley. He was reported to be of very good character regarding his military, with a fresh complexion, brown eyes, dark brown hair and he had been a tunneller.

His Army Pension record demonstrated that he contracted malaria on many occasions culminating in the comment that he was “not available for a theatre of war where malaria is prevalent”. He also suffered from keratitis , an eye complaint, which meant that he “ not fit for dangerous work nor work in bright daylight.....not due to service conditions but aggravated thereby.....Fit only for lowest category (labour) work under cover” he was subsequently awarded the Silver War Badge.

He died at Dewsbury Hospital on the 9th September 1919 and was buried at Batley Cemetery two days later.

Robert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group