Rufus Arthur Dyson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 205279

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 1/5th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 9th October 1917 aged 24 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 42 to 47 and 162.

Batley News, 17 Nov 1917, 20 Apr 1918. Batley Reporter, 23 Nov 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Rufus Arthur was born in c. October 1893 the son of Jane Dyson and was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Horbury Junction on the 11th October 1893.

He was adopted by spinster Agnes Thornton who lived at 24, Cullingworth Street, Staincliffe with her two sisters Grace and Mary.

He attended Staincliffe Church School and was also connected with Staincliffe Baptist Chapel. In 1911 Agnes gave his employment on the census as being a cloth finisher for a woollen manufacturer.

In early 1916 he married Emily Fleetwood and Arthur was born later that year. Prior to enlisting he lived at 36, Cullingworth Street, Staincliffe and was employed by Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's at Blakeridge Mills in the milling department.

Service Details

Rufus enlisted in April 1917 and went to France in July 1917. The 1/5th West Yorkshire Regiment was attached to 146th Brigade in in 49th (West Riding) Division and in July and August 1917 they took part in Operations on the Flanders Coast (Hush) which was a battle that never took place. Plans were made for an audacious British attack against the German-held coast of Belgium; a force was assembled and specialist training began. But necessary advance from Ypres did not materialise and Hush was inevitably cancelled.

On the 9th October they took part in the Battle of Poelcapelle which was part of the 3rd Battle of Ypres. Rufus was reported to have been wounded and missing during this battle.

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

Rufus is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Staincliffe C. of E. Junior School and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group