Tom Eastwood



Rank: - Private/Lance/Cpl

Number: - 3509

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 1st Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 14th June 1915

Cemetery: - Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, Nord, France 11.F.13

Batley Reporter, 25 June 1915

Family Details

Tom was born in Holmfirth in January 1884 the son of Abraham and Emily Eastwood (nee Marsh). His siblings were John (1886), Emma (1888) and Alice (1889).

In 1891 the family was living at Lane Bottom, New Mill, Holmfirth and Abraham was working as a stone mason but by 1901 they lived at 7, Blackburn Square, Hilberoyd Road, Batley and Tom was working as a stone mason like his father.

On 12th August 1905 at Batley Parish Church he married Emma Hirst of Alma Terrace, Purlwell Lane, Batley.

Tom changed his occupation to become a mill hand and in 1911 he was living at 10, Oxford Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley with his wife and three children, Ellen (1906), Annie (1908) and Emily (1911). They had lost one child in infancy.

Abraham was born in 1913 but died aged 2 in February 1916.

Service Details.

Tom enlisted on his 31st birthday in January 1915 at Pontefract and disembarked in France on the 19th May 1915.

The 1st Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from December 1914 came under the command of 83rd Brigade in 28th Division.

They fought at the Second Battle of Ypres which took place between 22nd April and the 25th May 1915.

The Second Battle of Ypres is generally remembered today as marking the first use of gas on the Western Front.

Tom may have taken part in the latter part of this battle but in June the battalion was practising with hand grenades when Tom was struck. The first intimation was from a chaplain attached to the 84th Field Ambulance of the 28th Division of the B.E.F.

"*Dear Mrs. Eastwood, - Your husband asks me to write and let you know that he has been wounded the other day. It was an accident which happened during a practice with hand grenades and he is wounded in three places, but the only*

serious one is in the stomach, I think. You must not be too anxious because the doctors are very helpful and he hopes to be able to write a letter to you himself in a few days."

A day or two later Mrs. Eastwood received the following letter from the Sister-in-Charge of No.10 Casualty Clearing Station -:

"Dear Madam, --I am writing to tell you that your husband is wounded and in hospital. He was admitted this morning. His wound is in the chest and I am afraid his condition is serious. I asked him this morning if he had any message for you, as I was writing to tell you that he was in hospital. He didn't want me to say he was badly wounded but sent his love to you and the children and hoped to be better soon and be home to see you all again. He is receiving every care and I hope to have better news for you soon. I will write in a few days and let you know how he is. He is not in great pain but very weak. With Sympathy, - Yours, etc"

This letter was soon followed by another from the Sister-in-Charge: -

"Dear Madam, I am very sorry to tell you that your husband died a few hours after I had written to you yesterday. He sank rapidly after I was speaking to him and passed peacefully away. He was unconscious for some time before the end He spoke very little after the message for you—just asked for a drink. I am very sorry indeed for you and your children. It is very hard to lose a husband and a father. With sympathy, - Yours, etc."

His brother, John Eastwood, was killed in action on the 24th March 1918.

Tom was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group