Bertram Harold Ellens





Rank: - Private

Number: - 20686

Regiment: - King's Own Scottish Borderers 6th Battalion

Missing presumed killed in action: - 19th October 1915 aged 26 years

Memorial: - Ypres (Menin Gate) panel 22

Batley News, 6 Nov 1915 (photo)

Family Details

Bertram was born in Grimsby in c 1889 the only son of William and Delia Margaret Ellens (nee Robinson). William came from Beeston, Leeds and Delia from Hull although their children Bertram and his younger sister Delia May (1890) were both born in Grimsby.

Before 1901 the family had moved to live at 35, Granville Street, Dewsbury and Bertram attended school in the area.

In 1911 the family was living at 18, Warwick Mount where William was a general dealer, Bertram as a warper and Delia as a winder. In 1915 Delia was employed at Messrs G. & J Stubley's, Bottoms Mill, Batley.

Before enlisting in the army Bertram was employed as a warper at Wormald and Walkers, Dewsbury.

Service Details

Bertram joined the army on July 5th 1915 going to the front on October 12th.

He sent a letter home giving instruction how to address letters adding: -

"It is Sunday. I do just know that, but I have got mixed up with the days: Cheer up, don't worry."

On the 19th he was hit by shrapnel and the first indication was received from Private Joe Spencer, a Heckmondwike man who enlisted with him.

"*I know how you will feel, for I am heartbroken myself. I would give my right hand to bring Bert back. The worst of it was I did not get to see him, but I have got a penny which was found near him, which I have as a memento. We have had a lot of rain and mud."*

Official news came from the Record Office on Wednesday, 3rd November 1915.

He had been in France for only one week.

Bertram was awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group