Arthur Elliott





Rank: - Corporal

Number: - 51529

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (formerly 33415 53rd (Young Soldiers) Garrison K.O.Y.L.I.) 2nd Battalion

Died of wounds: - 29th May 1918 aged 36 years

Cemetery: - Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France. 11. G. 10

"EVER REMEMBERED BY HIS LOVING WIFE & CHILDREN"

Batley News, 8 Jun 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Arthur was born in West Ardsley 1882 the son of Richard and Betty Elliott nee Stead who had married at St. Mary's, Woodkirk on 10th March 1872.Richard came from Beeston whilst Betty and daughters Elizabeth born 1872 and Annie 1874 were born in East Ardsley. The couple moved to West Ardsley before the births of John 1876, Samuel 1878, William 1880, Arthur, Ellen 1884, Thomas 1886, Nancy 1888 and Emily in 1890.

In 1891 the family was living at Hill Top and Richard was described as a coal miner on census.

Before 1901 Richard had become a Colliery Deputy and Arthur was also working below ground as a colliery byeworker.

On the 14th April 1906 Arthur married Florence Crossland at St. Mary's Church, Woodkirk giving his occupation as engine tenter. The couple moved into the Soothill area of Batley before the birth of their son Richard in 1908. In 1911 they were living at 130, Lady Ann Road in a three roomed home and Arthur had changed his job to become an Insurance Agent. Arthur Desmond Elliott was born in 1913.

Before enlisting he worked in Batley for the Wesleyan and General Assurance Company and his wife kept his insurance book going waiting for his return. In Soothill he was the secretary of the Working Men's Club and a member of the choir at the Congregational Church. The family lived at 36, Woodland Terrace, Grace Leather Lane, Soothill in 1918. His parents still lived in West Ardsley.

Service Details

Arthur enlisted in July 1916 and became rapidly efficient in physical culture. He passed first class at Aldershot and was made physical instructor for his unit. For over twelve months he trained men. Eventually he had to go to France and embarked on 25th March 1918. The Batley News reports that he had recently, before being wounded, been recommended to become a sergeant.

The 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was in 1918 part of 97th Brigade in 32nd Division.

The Division fought at the First Battle of Arras which took place on the 28th March 1918.

His wife received two letters in the same post one was from her husband, written in the trenches and saying he was quite well and the other from a sister –in-charge of a clearing station in France.

The latter said: -

"*Your husband was admitted to this hospital early this morning, I am sorry to say he was very badly wounded in his head and leg, and was in a most critical condition. Everything possible was done for him but I regret to tell you he passed away at 5.10 this afternoon. It will comfort you to know that he did not suffer long. He was quite unconscious at the end and did not send any message. He will be buried in the military cemetery near this hospital. Please accept my sincere sympathy in your great trouble.*"

He had been in France only two months.

Arthur was awarded the British War Medal and the Vicory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Soothill Congregational Church, Soothill Working Men's Club, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's) and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group