John William Evans





Rank: - L/Sgt.

Number: - 17853

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Missing, Presumed killed in action: - 22nd March 1918 aged 36 years

Memorial: - Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France Panels 59 and 60

Batley News, 4 May 1918, 11 May 1918 (photo)

Family Details

John William was born in Royston, Hertfordshire c.1881 the son of Richard Thurley Evans and his wife Mary nee Hargreaves.

In 1901 he was employed as a miner, below ground and living as a lodger at 52, New Street, Batley and in the same house also living as a lodger was Elizabeth Ann Noble and her son John (Jack Noble) aged 1 year.

On the 17th August 1901 he married Elizabeth Ann Noble at Batley Parish Church when they were both living at Hume Street, Batley.

Richard Thurley was born c.1902, Mary June 1905- October 1906, Abraham 1907, Wilfred 1910, Ernest 1913, Ethel 1918.

John William worked at Howley Park Colliery and was a clever billiard playing member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club.

At the time he went missing Jack Noble who had been brought up as his own son had been in France for one month. He had worked for Messrs Wrigley and Parker as a piecener. The family lived at 52, Hume Street, Batley, Yorks.

Service Details

John William enlisted at Dewsbury on the 7th September 1914 and disembarked in France on 11th September 1915.

He had been home on leave 8 weeks before he was posted missing when he found he had a baby daughter 2 weeks old.

The 9th (Service) Battalion was formed at Pontefract in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. Moved to Berkhamsted and then to Halton Park (Tring) in October 1914, going on to billets in Maidenhead in November returning to Halton Park in April 1915 and went on to Witley in August.

In September 1915 they landed in France.

They fought at: -

In 1915: -
The Battle of Loos (25 September – 8 October)

In 1916: -
The Battle of Albert (1-13 July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17 July)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)
The Battle of Morval in which the Division captured Geudecourt (25-28 September)
The Battle of Le Transloy(1-18 October)
Which were all phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916
In 1917:-
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line
The First Battle of the Scarpe(9-14 April)
The Third Battle of the Scarpe (3-4 May)
The flanking operations around Bullecourt (3-17 May)
Which were phases of the Arras offensive 1917
The Battle of Polygon Wood (26 September- 3 October)
The Battle of Broodseinde (4 October)
The Second Battle of Passchendaele (26 October – 10 November)
Which were phases of the Third Battles of Ypres
The Cambrai Operations
In 1918: -
The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March)
which was a phase of the First Battles of the Somme 1918.

John William was posted missing on the second day of this battle.
He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group