Christopher Wharton Farrar.







Rank: - Private

Number: - 44746

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry 20th Bn (formerly 27284 South Staffordshire, 15392 Labour Corps, 31692 Yorkshire Regt,)

Killed in Action: - 5th July 1918 aged 27

Cemetery: -La Clytte Military Cemetery, West Vlaanderen, Belgium V.A.8

Batley Reporter, 26 Jul 1918. Batley News, 3 Aug 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Christopher was born in Batley on 20th March 1891 the son of Abraham, who came from Adwalton, and Mary (nee Shaw) and baptised at Batley Parish Church on 22nd April 1891. His father was the inn keeper at the Wellington Inn, 3, Wellington Street, Batley and he had an older sister Ann Elizabeth born in 1889. The Wellington Inn is situated at the junction of Wellington Street and Hilberoyd Road. Joseph William was born in 1893 followed by Charlotte in 1895, who went to live with her maternal aunt in Leeds. Before 1899 the family had moved to the New Inn, Purlwell Lane, Batley and Abraham died in October 1899 and his son, Abraham, was born in December 1899 but sadly died aged 7 days. Christopher as a boy attended Purlwell Council School.

Mary continued to be the inn keeper with the help of two servants but sadly in December 1903 she died aged 36 years.

The children of this family in 1911 were living at 5, Eyre Street with their uncle William Fox Farrar and his family. Christopher was working in a rug warehouse.

Christopher was associated with Batley Carr Wesleyan Chapel and was a warehouseman at Joshua Ellis and Co. Batley Carr but was well known locally as a cricketer of some repute. He had played for both Soothill and Batley Clubs but the longest was with Chickenley where he had played before joining the army. He was also a member of Batley Carr Working Men's Club.

On the 7th March 1914 he married Sarah Black at St. Philip's; Dewsbury. Abraham was born on 14th October 1915. The family lived at 70, Upper Road, Batley Carr.

Service Details

He enlisted in Dewsbury in 1916 and saw action in both Italy and France. The 20th Battalion Durham Light Infantry came under the orders of 123rd Brigade, inn 41st Division. He landed in Le Havre on 28th July 1916 with the Labour Corps. He was made an acting Lance Corporal but was deprived of this rank because he was found gambling with other Privates in the cookhouse on the 27th August 1916.

On the 3rd December 1916 he was admitted to hospital with chest pains and later also complained of back aches and was sent to the General Hospital at Rouen with bronchitis on the 19th December. He did not re-join his battalion until 14th April 1917.

Christopher was transferred to the Durham Light Infantry on 26th September 1917.

On the 7th November the Division was notified that it was to be transferred to Italy. The move, by train, began 5 days later and by 18th November all units had concentrated north west of Mantua. The Division took over a section of front line behind the River Piave, north west of Treviso, between 30th November and early on 2nd December.

The stay was short because on 28th February 1918 the Division concentrated in Campo San Piero, preparatory to returning to France. By 9th March it had completed concentration near Doullens and Mondicourt.

In 1918 they went on to fight at the Battles of St. Quentin, Bapaume, Arras, Lys, Christopher took leave from 18th March 1918 until the 1st April 1918.

On the 29th June the 20th Battalion moved to billets at Abeele and the advance parties moved to the trenches in the vicinity of Kemmel and the rest of the battalion relieved the French during the night of 30June/1st July.

The War Diaries show that the battalion was in the trenches for five days and the weather was fine and observation good. They tried to rest as much as possible during the day but were active during the nights.

Christopher was killed on the last day before they were relieved.

He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Christopher is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr Wesleyans and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group