Holroyd Fletcher





Rank: - Private

Number: - 25201

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 23/08/1917 Age: 21 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panels 108-111

Batley News, 1 Sep 1917, 8 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Holdroyd was born in Batley in Oct 1895 the son of Brooke and Elizabeth Fletcher nee Holdroyd who had married on the 28th August 1893 at Batley All Saints Church.

In 1901 the family was living at 34, Beaumont Street, Batley with the additions of Gertrude 1894, Beatrice 1897 and Jack 1900. Lydia was born in 1903 followed by Martha in 1906. Elizabeth, his mother, died in June 1909. Sadly, the couple had lost three children in infancy, a daughter, Ivas, born in November 1898 only survived for 14 days, Albert Henry died in July 1906 aged 9 months, Wilfred in November 1908 aged 6 months.

Before 1911 Brook and his six surviving children were living at 9, Naylor Street, Batley Carr and widower Clara Squire was living with them as their housekeeper. Brook was working as a gas stoker for the Corporation whilst Gertrude and Holdroyd were pieceners.

Holdroyd had attended Purlwell Council School and before he enlisted was a willyer at Messrs. J. Auty & Co. Clerk Green Mills, Batley. He attended the Gospel Hall. The family had moved to Back Taylor Street, Batley before 1917.

Service Details

Holdroyd enlisted in 1915 and went to France about February 1916, being wounded once before he was killed.

The 6th Battalion had first landed on the 21st May 1915 at Boulogne. In 1917 they took part in the following engagements: -

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 March- 5 April)
The First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14 April)
The Third Battle of the Scarpe (3-4 May)
which were phases of the Arras Offensive

The Battle of Langemark (16-18 August)

A Lieutenant wrote to his father: -

"It is with deepest regret that I have to inform you that your son is missing; believed killed. This occurred on August 23rd.Your son was sitting in a ruined house with another of my men who has without doubt been killed, for as soon as the shell stopped we were able to unearth him. A shell struck the house and the debris fell in and so thick was it that it would have been impossible to remove it. Your son has not been seen since and although I have made exhaustive enquiries up to the time of writing no news has been heard of him. I may say frankly I don't think there is much hope of him being alive. His loss is much regretted by his comrades. He did his duty well and often volunteered to take messages to the front line under murderous fire."

A Lance-Corporal wrote: -

"Your son Holdroyd was killed in action during the recent fighting. His end was very sudden and he did not suffer at all. He fell while doing his duty as a runner and soldier. He was one of the best lads I know and the rest of the signalling section join with me in sending you our heartfelt sympathy. He was always cheerful and did not know the meaning of the word fear and always carried his despatches with the greatest keenness."

Holdroyd was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group