George Arthur Fox





Rank: - Private

Number: - 15348

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 10th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 24/04/1917 Age: 37 years

Memorial: - Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Bay 7

Batley News, 19 May 1917 (photo)

Family Details

George Arthur was born in Liversedge in 1879 the son of Richard Whiteley Fox and Ann Fox nee Morton who had married on the 30th May 1868 at All Hallows Church, Kirkburton. In 1881 he was living with his parents and siblings Sarah Elizabeth born 1869, Martha Ann 1873, Rose Selina 1876 at Norristhorpe and Richard was employed as a coal miner. Eliza was born in Norristhorpe in 1882 but before 1891 the family had moved to live at 4, Park View, Dewsbury Moor and Alfred born 1874 was also living with them. His father, Richard died in 1900.

On the 14th August 1898 George Arthur married Annie Elizabeth Jackson who lived at Bank Foot, Batley at Batley Parish Church giving his occupation as a dyer. They both made their mark on the certificate. Before 1901 he had changed his occupation to become a coal miner hewer and they were living at 4, Holland Street, Batley with their two-year-old daughter Amelia, when the census was taken. Elsie was born in 1902 and Gladys in 1905 but she sadly died aged 11 months in January 1906 when the family was living at 24, Wilton Street, Batley. Before 1911 George Arthur had become a railway porter and moved his family into a four roomed home at 4, Back Cross Park Street, Batley.

George Arthur was a member of Batley Trades and Friendly Club and connected with Hanover Street Congregational Church and P.S.A. Newspaper reports state that before he enlisted, he worked at Howley Park Colliery as a bye-worker. Another child was born after 1911 and the family moved again to live at 6, Devon Street, Caledonia Road, Batley.

Service Details

George Arthur enlisted in August 1914.

The 10th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was formed at Pontefract in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. They 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 and saw action at the Battle of Loos.

In 1916 they saw action on the Somme: -

The Battle of Albert
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette
The Battle of Morval in which the Division captured Geudecourt
The Battle of Le Transloy
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

The newspaper report tells us that he was admitted to hospital three times suffering, in turn, from slight wounds, shell shock and poisonous gas. His death took place in the region of Arras.

George Arthur was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group