Oliver Fozzard





Rank: -Private

Number: - 5197

Regiment: - York and Lancaster Regiment 1/5th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 1st July 1916 aged 29 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 14 A and 14 B

Batley News, 22 Jul 1916. Batley Reporter, 21 Jul 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Oliver was born in Batley in c.1887 the son of Benjamin and Lois Fozard nee Paget who had married on the 24th December 1876 at Batley Parish Church.

Albert was born in 1880 followed by Ada 1882 and in 1891 the family was living at 6, Wellington Street, Batley and Gawthorpe born Benjamin was working as an oil extractor. Agnes was born in August 1888 but sadly died aged 11 months Florence born 1877 died aged one year five months in February 1879,

Lois died in May 1897 and in the latter part of the same year Benjamin married Emma Hardcastle who came from Gomersal. Benjamin was born in 1899 but died August 1900 aged 15 months, Agnes was born in 1900 and in 1901 the family was living at 6, Norfolk Street, Batley and Oliver was working as a cloth finisher. Herbert was born in 1903. Before 1911 the family had moved to live at 14, Norfolk Street and Agnes was still there in 1939.

Oliver was employed as a cutter at Messrs. G. & J. Stubley, Bottoms Mill, Batley. He was a Sunday school teacher at Hick Lane Wesleyan Sunday School and also a member of Batley Liberal Club. Oliver was described as being one of the best hearted lads it was possible to find and was well liked by all who knew him. He was engaged to Miss H. M. Hargreaves.

Service Details

Oliver was called up in March 1916 and went to France at Whitsuntide 1916.The 1/5th Battalion was attached to the 49th (West Riding) Division and fought at the Battle of Albert (1-13th July) on the Somme.

The Battle of Albert started on Saturday 1st July 1916. The men walked out of the trenches and were shot down.

An officer wrote to his parents: -

"I am sorry it is my painful duty to write and tell you of the death of your son. He was killed in action on the 7th July. He was one of the cheeriest men in his platoon and always kept his pals cheery. He was always willing to do his duty."

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group