Charles Willie Gallagher





Rank: - A/Sgt

Number: -57600

Regiment: - The King's (Liverpool Regiment), (Formerly 2057 KOYLI) 8th Battalion

Died of Wounds sustained 5 March 1917: - 31st March 1917 aged 19 years

Cemetery: - Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France XXII. D. 8.

"ETERNAL REST GIVE UNTO HIM O LORD FROM A LOVING MOTHER"

Batley Reporter, 24 Mar 1917, 20 Apr 1917

Family Details

Charles Willie was born in Dewsbury in 1897 the youngest son of Charles & Fanny Elizabeth Gallagher (nee Saville, m. 1874, registered Dewsbury). He was baptised at St. Joseph's Church, Batley Carr when the family lived at 44, Victoria Street, Batley Carr.

In 1901 the family was living 93, Lidgate Lane, Batley Carr and Huddersfield born Charles was working as a cloth finisher.

In 1911 Charles was not with the family and Fanny Elizabeth was living at 19, Quarry Street, Track Road, Batley in a three roomed home, describing herself as head, with five of her children. Charles was at a lodging house at 31, Leeds Road, Dewsbury describing himself as a cloth manufacturer.

His siblings were Richard and William who were born in 1874 but survived only a short time, Elizabeth 1876, Emma 1880, Sarah Jane 1882-1889, Sarah Ann 1884, Esther 1886, Joseph 1888, James 1891-1891, John Edward 1893 and Winifred 1895.

Charles was a scholar St. Patrick's School and employed as a spinner at Messrs. Joseph Newsome and Sons mill, Batley Carr.

The family went to live at 1, Court 2, King Street, Batley Carr.

His father Charles died in late 1917.

Service Details

Charles was a member of the Dewsbury Territorial Force before the war and enlisted in August 1914 but was transferred from the K.O.Y.L.I. to the Liverpool Regiment. His services were utilised at home by training troops at various camps until Christmas 1916. He left for France on 31st December 1916.

He was only at the Front for two months when he was injured.

An officer wrote to say that Charles was wounded on March 5th by a shell which burst in his billet and he was a splendid soldier, very well liked by both officers and men. The matron of the hospital where he had been taken wrote on the 17th *"I am very sorry to tell you that your son's condition is dangerous. He has been wounded in both knees and it has been necessary for him to have an operation.*

He is having every possible care and attention and he seems better during the last 24 hours."

Later the matron wrote another letter: -

"I am extremely sorry to tell you that your son died yesterday afternoon at 3.40 pm. He never recovered from the shock of the sudden haemorrhage he had in the morning and the consequent operation when it was found necessary to remove the leg. It was tragically sudden and we are terribly grieved about it and the shock to you must be terrible. He was expecting to see you every day and was often speaking of you. He did not suffer any pain at the last and really did not recover consciousness after the operation. The priest saw him every day, so I think he was quite happy. He will be buried in the English military cemetery at-----and his few personal belongings including his watch will be forwarded to you in due course by the authorities."

At the time of his death his brothers John Edward, who had been in the cycling corps, was a driver and Joseph were both in France.

The Territorial Force War Medal, 1914-1919, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Charles is remembered with Honour on Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group