Clifford Albert Gill





Rank: - Private

Number: - 41121

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

Killed in Action (shot through throat): - 9th April 1917 aged 32 years

Cemetery: - Cojeul British Cemetery, St. Martin-sur-Cojeul, Pas-de-Calais, France B.38

Batley News, 5 Apr 1917, 12 Apr 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Clifford Albert was born in Batley in c. 1884 the son of Eliza Gill and unknown father. He had an older brother Robert Henry who was born in 1877.

On 18th March 1888 Eliza married James France at St. Saviour's Church, Brownhill, when James of Coach Hill, Birstall gave his occupation as a card cleaner.

In 1891 the family including Drusilla born 1888 and Emily aged 6 months when the census was taken were living at 73, Cobden Street, Batley

Fred born 1892 died in November 1893 aged 13 months.

Clifford, was in 1901 living at 98, Wellington Street in a five roomed home as step son of James France. James died in March 1915.

Clifford was an old scholar at Up Lane School and attended the evening services when he was not at Wellington Street Primitive Methodist Chapel.

On 20th December 1908 he married Mary Stead daughter of John Edwin Stead (grocer) at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton giving his occupation as a fireman.

Edna was born in Soothill in 1910 but when the 1911 census was taken the family was living in a two roomed home at 88A, Wellington Street, Batley. Clifford gave his occupation as a boiler fireman for a woollen manufacturer and Mary was a weaver.

Before enlisting he worked at Messrs. J. Blackburn, New Ing Mills, Field Lane, Batley as an engineman.

His widow, Mary, married Fred Brearey in 1922.

Service Details

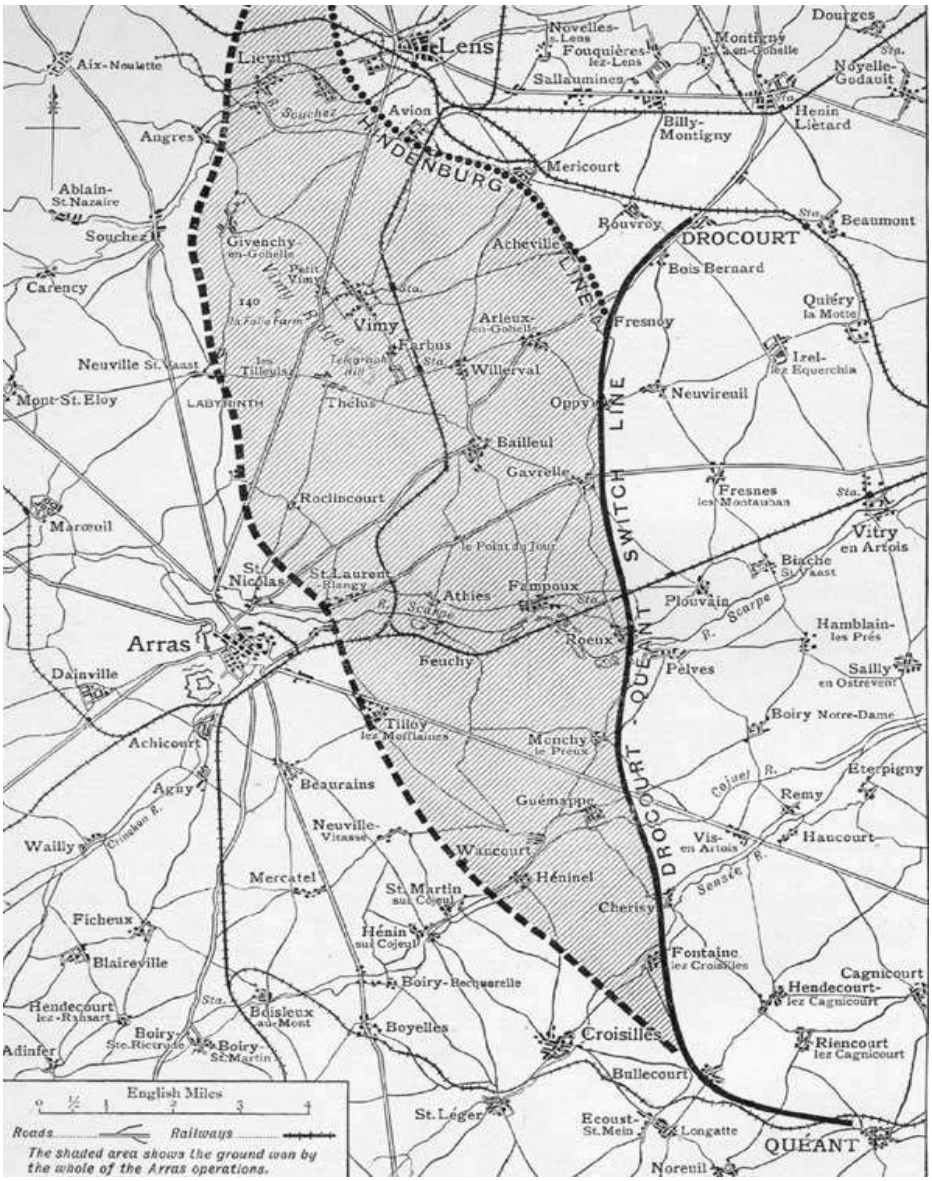
Clifford enlisted in October 1916 and went to France in January 1917. The 10th (Service) Battalion came under the command of 64th Brigade in 21st Division. In 1917 the Division took part in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14th March-5th April) and the First Battle of the Scarpe (9th April -14th April) which was one of the opening battles for Arras.

On the opening day of this battle Clifford was hit in the throat when he was fighting with his battalion near Private Fawcett from Dewsbury who did what he could for him but then had to leave him because of the continued fighting.

Clifford Albert was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Wellington Street Primitive Methodist Chapel, Up Lane Sunday School and Batley War Memorial.





Researched by members of
Batley History Group