Wilfred Gill





Rank: - Private

Number: - 241057

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) "B" Coy. 1st /5th Bn.

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 19th September 1916 aged 20 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 6 A and 6 B.

Batley News, 18 Aug 1917 (photo) Batley Reporter, 10 Nov 1916

Family Details

Wilfred was born in Batley, c.1896 son of Frederick and Mary Ann Gill (nee Flannery (Firth).

In 1901 Wilfred was living with his father, who came from West Ardsley and was a rag grinder, his mother a weaver from Batley and his siblings Edith, 1888 (rag sorter), Amy Elizabeth, 1890 at 7, Hilberoyd Road, Batley who were all born in Batley. Clifford was born in 1907 and the family was still at this one up and one down home in 1911 when Edith had left but Annie Firth the maternal grandmother was living with them. Percy had been born in 1892 but died aged two in May 1894 when the family lived at Wards Hill, Batley and Richard in 1904 who died aged 6 months in January 1905 when the family lived at 7, Hilberoyd Road, Batley.

Wilfred attended Park Road Day Schools and was connected with Hick Lane Wesleyan Chapel and Sunday School. He worked for a considerable time at moved to work for Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills, Batley.

Service Details

Wilfred enlisted at the outbreak of war but was discharged due to medical unfitness. In February 1915 he again offered himself and was accepted. He went to the Front in August 1916 and was posted wounded and missing the following month.

From 15 May 1915 the formation became 147th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division.

The Battle of Albert (1-13 July)
The Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14-17 July)
The Battle of Pozieres Ridge (23 July- 3 September)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)

Which were all phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916.

Wilfred would have joined his Regiment during the Battle of Poziers Ridge and gone missing during the Battle of Flers- Courcelette.

His parents made extensive enquiries and in July 1917 received a letter from the British Red Cross: -

"We have been making every endeavour to obtain information regarding your son, and I deeply regret to inform you that we have just received a report from Pte. J. Roden of the same regiment, at present in an Army Rest Camp in France in which he tells us that he saw your son killed by shell fire at Hauteville. He thinks your son's body was recovered and buried in a British Cemetery at Hauteville and a cross put over his grave.

Wilfred is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial Addenda

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group