William Akeroyd Gill





Rank: - Private

Number: - 241046

Regiment: - Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) 2/5th Battalion

Died of Wounds sustained 2 days earlier: - 12/04/1918 Age: 32 years

Cemetery: - Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 1, Somme, France V1.B.16

Batley News, 20 Apr 1918 (photo)

Family Details

William Akeroyd was born in Batley in c.1886 the son of Edward and Jane Gill nee Akeroyd who had married on the 11th July 1874 at Batley Parish Church.

In 1891 Edward who was a willyer and Jane who was born in London were living with their children Hannah Edward 1874, Mary Akeroyd 1876, Elizabeth 1879, George Edward 1882 and William at 16, Healey Place, Batley. They were still here a decade later but he had changed his occupation to become a card cleaner. William attended Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel when he lived at Cross Bank.

In 1909 his sister Elizabeth married Birstall born Harry Holmes and William was living with them at 32, Gladstone Terrace, Howden Clough in a two bed roomed home in 1911. Before he enlisted, he worked at Howden Clough Colliery.

Service Details

William enlisted in February 1915 and went to France in December 1916. In 1917 they took part in the following: -

The Operations on the Ancre (15 February – 13 March)
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line (14 – 19 March)
The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive) (11 April)
The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive) (15 April)
The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras) (3 – 17 May)
The actions on the Hindenburg Line (20 – 28 May)
The Cambrai Operations (Tank attack 20 – 21 November and the capture of Bourlon Wood 27 – 28 November)

In 1918: -
The Battle of Bapaume~ (25 March)
The First Battle of Arras 1918~ (28 March)
~ the battles marked ~ are phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918

On the 10th April 1918 William Akeroyd sustained severe wounds and was taken to a Canadian Hospital in France where he died two days later. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St Saviour's Church, Brownhill; Howden Clough Methodist Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group