Samuel Gledhill



Rank: - Ex-Private

Number: - 12/1544

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 12th Battalion

Died: - 19th January 1921 aged 28 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire I 228

Batley News, 22 Jan 1921 (classifieds)

Family Details

Samuel was born in Carlinghow, Batley on 15th December 1892 the youngest son of Henry Ernest and Clara Gledhill (nee Blakeley). He was baptised at St.John's Carlinghow on 6th August 1893 when the family was living at 1, Back Loxley Buildings, Batley and his father's occupation was given as a tenter. His parents had married at Batley Parish Church on 20th May 1882. Agnes was born in December 1882 followed by Joseph (November 1893) and Martha 1895.

In 1891 the family was living at 6, Lobley Buildings, Bradford Road, Batley next door to his father's sister Sarah Preston and Henry Ernest was employed as a tenterer. A decade later they had moved only a few doors to 16, Bradford Road West. Clara died in September 1908 and Henry, Agnes, Joseph and Samuel were living in a three roomed home at 14, Lobley Buildings when 18-year-old Samuel was employed as a cloth fuller.

On 8th April 1912 Samuel married Hilda Spedding at St. Thomas's Church, Batley.

Harold was born in October 1912 followed by Jack in 1914, Clara July 1918 and Doris Margaret on 30th April 1921.

The family lived at Copley Street, Batley and Samuel was employed as a willeyer.

Service Details

Samuel enlisted on the 5th July 1915. The Regiment at this time was at Burton Leonard (Ripon) and attached as Pioneer Battalion to 31st Division. They moved to Fovant in October 1915.

In late November 1915 the Division received a warning order to prepare to sail for France. Advance parties began to depart. But on 2nd December final orders were received that the Division would go to Egypt, accompanied by the artillery of 32nd Division. Its own artillery would join 32nd Division in France. The advanced parties were recalled and the Division sailed from 7th December, with Divisional HQ being established at Port Said on Christmas Eve. The last units arrived in Egypt on 23rd January 1916.

The Division took over the No 3 Sector of the Suez Canal defences and Divisional HQ moved to Kantara on 23rd January. The stay in Egypt was short, and between 1st -6th March the Division sailed to Marseilles for service on the Western Front.

The 31st Division subsequently remained in France and Flanders and took part in these actions: -

The Battle of Albert including the attack on Serre (1st -13th July)
The Battle of the Ancre (13th-18th November 1916)
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

1917
Operations on the Ancre (11th January-13th March)

Samuel was discharged on 3rd May 1917 because of Bright's Disease although his children always said he had been gassed. He died on the 19th January 1921 leaving four young children.

Hilda died in 1926 and his young family were sent to live with relatives, Harold being sent to Brisbane to live with his father's cousin and her family.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group