Joseph Hall





Rank: - Private,

Number: - 641428

Regiment/Battalion: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 9th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 1st July 1916 aged 34

Cemetery: - Gordon Dump, Ovillers-la-Boiselle, France 1X.C.6.

Batley News, 29 Jul 1916. Batley Reporter, 28 Jul 1916 (photo)

Family Details.

Joseph was born in Batley in the latter part of 1881 the son of Joseph and his wife Hannah (nee Buckley). Sadly, Hannah died and was buried at Batley Cemetery on 3rd January 1882. The couple had Benjamin 1863, James (1865-1870), Mary A 1867, Martha Jane 1871-1872 died aged 19 months, all born in Batley, and George 1876 was born in Gomersal.

In 1871 the family was living in Well Lane and Joseph was described as a factory operative.

Before 1881 the family had moved to Beck Lane, Carlinghow and Joseph was working as a spinner. Fourteen-year-old Mary was still a scholar.

On the 11th June 1887 Joseph (Snr) married divorced Lavinia Biltcliffe (nee Lodge) at St. John's, Carlinghow.

In 1891 the family with Isabella Lodge was living at 29, Bankfoot Place, Batley and his father, Joseph was working as a Felt Machine Mender.

Joseph, a lodging house keeper died in 1912

As a boy Joseph attended Park Road School and St. Thomas's Church. He joined the army and was a regular for 12 years and was in the Reserve when war broke out. Before enlisting he was a miner at Messrs. J. Critchley and Son, West End Colliery and attended St. Andrew's Church, Purlwell. He also was a football enthusiast and an ardent supporter of the Mount Pleasant team.

He married Harriett Lord at Batley Parish 10th September 1910 and the couple lived at Senior's Yard, Wheatcroft.

Service Details

Joseph had previously served in the army for 16 years and fought throughout the Boer War without even a scratch.

Joseph was called up at the outbreak of war because he was in the Reserves, however he could not join the Forces for a year due to illness. He did so as soon as his health permitted and went to France in December 1915.

He went through some heavy fighting at Verdun without injury but was killed on the first day of the "Big Push".

The 9th Battalion attacked near Fricourt and suffered many casualties including Joseph.

A letter from a comrade arrived a week before official confirmation came:

"I am writing you on rather a queer subject. I want to know if you have heard from your husband since July 1st when the big advance started, as I should like to know very much. He was in the same bombing squad as I, and as you will see I am in hospital wounded in four places but am getting on fine. We exchanged addresses before we went over so that if either of us went under, we could write to each other's wife. My home is at Earlsheaton, so naturally enough we exchanged confidences. When I was hit, I saw nothing more of your husband except that he was going on happy enough."

The letter was signed Private A. Percy Gibson.

His employers at West End Colliery said at the time of his death that he had been one of the best workers that had ever gone down the pit. Much sympathy will be felt with the brave soldier's wife in her great loss. He was highly respected by all who knew him.

For many years after the war and "In Memoriam" appeared in newspapers on the anniversary of the 1st July. It remembered the 9th K.O.Y.L.I.'s and used the words "when the barrage lifts---"This was a toast used by the Officers at their "eve of battle" dinner on June 28th. Twenty-four officers went into battle on July1st. Twelve was killed on the day, three later died of wounds, only one came through unwounded.

Joseph is remembered with Honour at St. Andrew's Purlwell, Batley War Memorial and Gordon Dump Cemetery France.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Stars, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group