Colbeck Hemingway



Rank: - Private

Number: - 3/2535

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Depot (formerly 2nd and 1st Battalion)

Died: - 28th May 1917 aged 38 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire N.63

Family Details

Colbeck was born in Batley on the 2nd October 1878 the son of Joseph and Eliza Hemingway nee Walker who had married on the 25th December 1867 at All Saints Church, Batley. He was baptised at the same church with his brother Edward born on 9th May 1876 on the 29th December 1878. Their older siblings were Arthur 1868 and Charlotte 1874. In 1881 the family was living at Spring Gardens, Batley and Joseph was employed as a horse driver.

On the 25th November 1899 Colbeck married Hannah Eliza Lees at Batley Parish Church and the couple went to live at 18, East Street, Batley. Colbeck was employed as a coal miner hewer and Hannah as a woollen cloth weaver. Doris May was born on 29th October 1902 followed by Melissa in 1905 who sadly died in May 1908 and John Arthur born on 19th August 1908.

Service Details

Colbeck was a Reservist at the outbreak of war and enlisted at Dewsbury on 31st August 1914.

It would appear that he was sent to France landing at Le Havre on 16th January 1915.In 1915 they fought at the Second Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Loos. On the 19th October the Division was ordered to prepare to sail for Alexandria and then on to Salonika and completed its disembarkation on 4 January 1916.

In 1916 they took part in
2 October 1916: the occupation of Mazirko
31 October 1916: the capture of Barakli Jum'a

On 15th December 1916 in Salonika a medical took place where it was confirmed he had emphysema and bronchitis which was brought on by active service due to exposure. He was transferred back to England and placed in the reserves and sadly died at home on 28th May 1917.

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group