Fred Hemingway





Rank: - Private

Number: - 301743

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry (Formerly 6079) 1/8th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 27/05/1918 Age: 25 years

Memorial: - Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France

Batley News, 6 Jul 1918 (photo), 30 Nov 1918, 26 Jul 1919

Family Details

Fred was born in Dewsbury on the 16th August 1891 the youngest son of Charles Frederick and Elizabeth Hemingway nee Johnson. He was baptised at Dewsbury Parish Church on 17th September 1891.

The couple had married in 1882 and Charles Frederick was born in 1884 and baptised December 14th but sadly died aged 2 years in September 1887. He was followed by Robert bowling baptised March 28th 1886, Gertrude Cissie baptised September 25th 1887, Thomas Henry 1888, Frances Ann baptised February 9th 1890. In 1891 the family was living at 3, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury where Charles Frederick was a rag merchant but he sadly died in November 1891.

In 1901 the family was living at Watergate Road, Westtown, Dewsbury but within the next decade had moved to a four roomed home at 22, Pyrah Street, Carlton Road, Dewsbury and was employed as a dyer for a woollen manufacturer.

Fred attended Dewsbury Parish Church Schools. After leaving school he worked at Messrs. Mark Oldroyd's, Calder Mills, Dewsbury but later worked in the milling department of Messrs. Wrigley and Parker Bros. Greenhill Mills, Batley. He was a nephew of Edward Hemingway, secretary at Dewsbury Infirmary.

Service Details

Fred enlisted in January 1916 and went to France in May 1916. The 1/8th Battalion was 151st Brigade in 50th (Northumbrian) Division from May 1915 until it left the Brigade and became a Pioneer Battalion in the same Division on 16th November 1915. They did not take part in the Battles on the Somme in 1916 until September when they fought at: -

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)
The Battle of Morval (25-28 September)

The Battle of the Transloy Ridges (1-18 October)

In 1917 they took part around Arras in the First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14 April)
The Capture of Wancourt Ridge
The Second Battle of the Scarpe (23- 24 April)

He also fought in the Third Battles of Ypres at the Second Battle of Passchendaele (26 October -10 November).

In 1918 they took part in the First Battles of the Somme 1918 at the Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March)
The Actions at the Somme Crossings (21 March -5 April)
The Battle of Rosieres (26-27 March)

Moving to near the Lys for
The Battle of Estaires (9-11 April)
The Battle of Hazebrouck (12-15 April)
Fred was wounded in one of these battles but returned to his unit taking part in the Battle of the Aisne (27 May-6 June). Fred went missing on the first day of the fighting.

It was not until July 1919 that an official notification was received by his mother. His brother Thomas Henry was killed in action on 27th October 1918.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group