Benjamin Hepworth





Rank: - Private

Number: - 33347

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2nd Battalion

Killed in Action: - 25th November 1917

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West Vlaanderen, Belgium Panels 108-111

Batley News, 8 Dec 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Benjamin was born in Healey, Batley in 1884 the son of William Thompson Hepworth and his wife Jane nee Gambles.

Eliza Jane was born in 1879 followed by Nellie in 1881. In 1891 William who was a stone mason was living with his family at 79, Healey Lane, Batley but in 1901 they were living at 109, Healey Lane and Benjamin was a brick yard labourer.

Nellie died in November 1901, Jane died in June 1906 and William in March 1907. In 1911 he was living with his sister Eliza Jane in a two roomed home at 253, Healey Lane, Batley.

On the 15th November 1913 he married Jane Hannah Grinstead at St. Thomas's Church, Batley. Nellie was born in 1914. They lived at 8, Back Cross Park Street, Batley.

Benjamin had attended Healey Council Schools and had been associated with Haley Congregational Church. He was a member of the Batley Lodge of the Sons of Temperance and played with the Healey Cricket Club.

Prior to enlisting he worked for Messrs, Lumb and Fozard, Lady Ann Road, Soothill but had previously worked at Messrs. Auty's Brick Kiln, White Lee.

Service Details

Benjamin enlisted in around November 1915 and had been in France about twelve months when he was killed. From December 1915 the 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry came under 97nd Brigade in 32nd Division.

In 1917 they took part in operations on the Ancre and the pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line.

Private Fred Crowther of Healey wrote: -

"Your husband met his death in action a few days ago. I must say how sorry I am for you as I have always known him as a good pal, and he always did his duty nobly as a true soldier and Britisher."

A letter of condolence was received by a Lance Corporal who wrote: -

"We sorrow to know that one whom we gloried in as a chum is not with us in the comparative comfort of the billet fire, whilst at rest. I write to express the sorrow and sincerest regret of his comrades and to give you a story of his last moments. I and a chum from Morley Private J. Armitage remained by his side after he had received all possible human aid. He was conscious and his last requests were a drink of water and to hold his wife's photo. His last words were "Never mind, Janie lass, I am alright, look after the bairn," and he passed peacefully away. He was buried under shell fire; hence the conventional military honours could not be paid. Nevertheless, he could not be given a greater honour than the respect of officers and men- the acknowledgement of his supreme sacrifice on the field of battle."

His brother in law John Peel was killed on 16th September 1916.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Healey Congregational Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group