Charles Edward Holgate





Rank: - Private

Number: - 30870

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 6th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 12th May 1917 aged 23 years

Cemetery: - Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France V.E.18

Batley News, 26 May 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Charles Edward was born in Morley in c.1894 the eldest son of Charles Herbert and Margaret Ann Holgate nee Lambert who had married on 19th November 1892 at Batley, All Saints Church. Charles Herbert came from Leeds and Margaret Ann from Gildersome and although both lived in Batley when they married moved to live in Morley before the birth of their children Charles Edward, John James 1897, George Herbert 1900-1900 and Wilfred 1905.

In 1901 the family was living at 27, Little Fountain Street, Morley and Charles Edward gave his occupation as a quarryman labourer.

Before 1911 the family moved to live at 39, Richmond Street, Batley and Charles Edward and John James were working as worsted piecener at a woollen mill. The family moved to live at 15, Bank Foot, Batley.

Both Charles and his father were prominently associated with Batley Salvation Army and both played in the band. Charles Herbert had for some time been the drummer.

Father, Charles Herbert Holgate, died in a mill accident the very same day. He had been assisting to change a belt from the drive shaft to a creeper sheet in the willeying room and was holding with both hands when it began to pull round the shaft. He let go but immediately afterwards it flung round, caught his wrists and pulled him into the shafting.

Charles Edward married Margaret Miller C. Gillies born 29th December 1889. She was born in Scotland and they married there also. Their daughter Margaret Gillies Holgate was born on the 11th January 1916 (DEWSBURY REG) and she married Maurice Ackroyd in 1940 (DEWS). In 1921 his widow married John Thomas Laxton and Joshua Thomas was born in December 1924 followed by Victor in 1927. On the 1939 census his daughter was living with her mother and her second husband John T. Laxton.

Service Details

Charles Edward enlisted in Batley in June 1916 and went to France in January 1917. The 6th (Service) Battalion came under the orders of 43rd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division.

In 1917 they took part in: -

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line
The First Battle of the Scarpe (9-14 April)
The Third Battle of the Scarpe (3-4 May)

His records have not survived and it is not known when he was injured but news arrived from France that he died from his wounds on the 12th May on the same day as his father was killed in a mill accident at Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's, Blakeridge Mill, Batley where he had worked for about two years.

Charles Edward 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