Ernest Carter Holmes







Rank: - Private

Number: - 21802

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 21st (Service) Bn. (Wool Textile Pioneers)

Killed in Action: - 30/03/1917 Age: 27 years

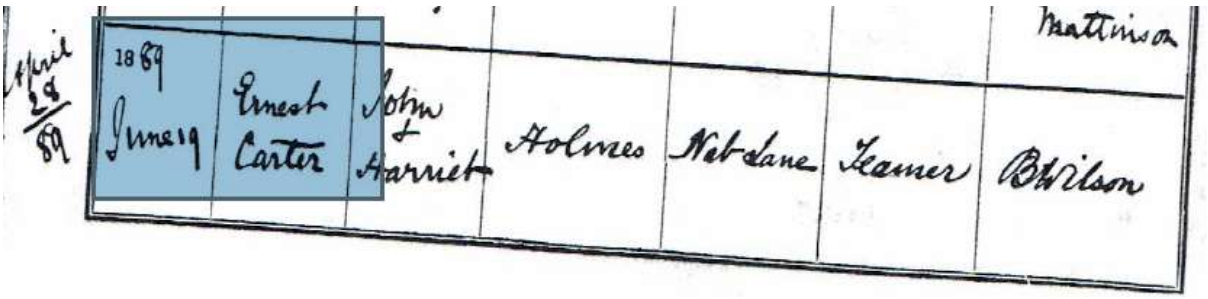
Cemetery: - Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras 11.M.2

"HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE, REST IN PEACE"

Batley News, 7 Apr 1917 Batley Reporter, 13 Apr 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Ernest Carter was born in Mirfield on the 28th April 1889 the son of John and Harriet Holmes (nee Carter, m. 18 Feb 1882, Battyeford, Christ the King) of Nab Lane, Battyeford, Mirfield, Yorks. He was baptised at Christ the King on the 19th June 1989 when his father was described as a teamer at the time of his son's birth.



In 1891, at the time of the Census, the family were living at Nab Cottage, Mirfield and consisted of John (31), a teamer, Harriet (29), Ethel (3) and Ernest Carter (1).

By 1901 the family were living on Nab Hill and consisted of John (40), now a groom, Harriet (38), Ethel (13), Ernest Carter (11) and Elsie May (4).

The census of 1911 found the family still living at Nab Lane in Mirfield. John now 51 was described as a teamer at a corn mill; Harriet was 49; Ethel (23) and a weaver of rugs and blankets; Ernest Carter was now 21 and single and working as a shop assistant in a grocery department; Elsie May (14) was also a weaver of rugs and blankets.

At one time he was connected with Battyeford Christ Church and Sunday School.

Ernest was employed in the Purlwell Branch of the Batley Co-operative Society.


Purlwell Branch

Service Details

Ernest enlisted in February 1916, as a Derby recruit, and went to France at Whitsuntide (early June) 1916. From the 2nd June his battalion came under the orders of 4th Division as a Pioneer Battalion.

In 1916 they fought at: -

The Battle of Albert (1st-13th July)
The Battle of Le Transloy (1st -18th October)
which were phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

His parents received a letter from the platoon commander dated March 30th 1917 which said: -

"I regret it is my duty to inform you that your son was killed today by a shell. He was buried this afternoon in the military cemetery here but owing to censorship regulations I am unable to give you the location of the grave. Allow me to express the sympathy of his officers and comrades with you in your great trouble."

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Co-operative Society Roll of Honour, Mirfield Ings Grove Park War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.

Thanks to Stephen Walker.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group