Fred Hudson





Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - 9731

Regiment: - Coldstream Guards 1st Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 29/03/1918 Age: 22 years

Cemetery: - Saint Pol British Cemetery, Saint Pol-sur-Ternoise, Pas de Calais, France 11.A.2

Batley News, 6 Apr 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Fred was born in Hanging Heaton on 29th August 1895 the son of William and Mary Ann Hudson nee Hobson and was baptised at St. Paul's Church on 6th October 1895 when the family lived at Leeds Road, Dewsbury. William was a gardener. The couple who both came from Batley Carr had married at Holy Trinity Church, Batley Carr on 29th April 1883 when William gave his occupation as a groom.

Harry was born in 1890. Fred attended Hanging Heaton Church Day and Sunday Schools

In 1911 Fred was working as a pattern weaver. His last civil employment before enlisting was as a tier- on at Messrs. G. & J. Stubley, Bottoms Mill, Batley.

Mary Ann died in 1920 and his father, William, moved to live at 115, Highfield Cottages, Commonside, Batley.

Service Details

Fred enlisted in February 1913 and went to France on August 9th 1914.

On 4th August 1914 the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards was stationed at Aldershot, Hampshire and landed in France a few days later as part of the 1st (Guards) Brigade in 1st Division.

In 1914 they fought at the Battle of Mons (23-24 August), First Battle of Marne (6- 9 September) , First Battle of Aisne (13-26 September), First Battle of Ypres (19 October – 15 November) and the Battle of Aubers Ridge (9 May 1915), On 25th August 1915 the 1st Battalion was transferred to the 2nd Guards Brigade, Guards Division.

In 1915, the brigade took part in the Battle of Loos (26 September – 8 October) and Hohenzollern Redoubt (18 – 19 October).

In 1916, it fought in the later stages of the Battle of the Somme, in particular the Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15 – 16 and 20 – 22 September), the Battle of Morval (25 – 28 September), and the Capture of Lesboeufs (25 September). In 1917, it saw action in the Third Battle of Ypres including the Battle of Pilckem Ridge (31 August – 2 July), the Battle of Poelcappelle (9 October), and the First

Battle of Passchendaele (12 October). It then took part in the Battle of Cambrai (24 November – 3 December).

In September 1916 Fred was wounded in the arm but returned to his unit. He was last home on leave for Christmas 1917.

In February 1918, British [I] divisions on the Western Front were reduced from a 12-battalion to a 9-battalion basis (brigades from four to three battalions). As a result, the 4th Guards Brigade was formed on 8 February 1918 by taking a battalion from each of the brigades of the Guards Division and the 2nd Guards Brigade lost the 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards.

In 1918 it had to withstand the German Spring Offensive in the First Battles of the Somme (1 – 25 March) then switched over to counter-attack in the summer months.

Fred was wounded and taken to hospital where he died from his wounds at Saint Pol in the Arras area of France on Friday, March 29th 1918.

A telegram arrived at the family home on the following Tuesday followed the next day with a letter from a Sister who stated: -

"*Your son was wounded in both legs and face. He slept most of the day and I don't think he suffered a great deal of pain. I told him I would write him for you and he wished to be remembered to you all."*

Fred was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group