Arnold Humphrey



Rank: - Private

Number: - 34137

Regiment: - King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/5th Battalion

Missing, presumed Killed in Action: - 27th March 1918

Cemetery: - Gommecourt British Cemetery No 2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France V.E.8

Batley Reporter, 24 May 1918

Family Details

Arnold was born in Batley on the 19th December 1897 the son of William and Sarah Elizabeth Humphrey nee Metcalf. The couple had married in the Dewsbury Registration District in 1st Qtr.1884. Arnold was baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel, Staincliffe on the 28th June 1898, the same day as his sister Annie, born 21st September 1894, when the family lived at Halifax Road, Staincliffe.

When the census was taken in 1901 the family was living at 2, yard 3, Halifax Road and William was employed as a tooth-maker for a rag machine. The family consisted of William, Sarah Elizabeth, Nellie born 1892, Annie and Arnold.

Edith Emma died in May 1891 aged 2 years, Annie died in July 1891 aged 5 days and Harry in October 1896 aged one month.

In 1911 the family was living in a two roomed home at 114, Halifax Road, Staincliffe and 13-year-old Arnold was working as an assistant percher in a woollen mill whilst Nellie was a weaver and Annie a check clerk at Heckmondwike Co-op. William died in April 1914 aged 59 years.

Service Details

Arnold enlisted at Cleckheaton into the 5th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. On 2nd February 1918 the 1/5th Battalion transferred to 187th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division and absorbed 2/5th Bn and renamed 5th Bn.

They then fought at
The Battle of Bapaume (25 March)
The First Battle of Arras 1918 (28 March)
which were phases *of the First Battles of the Somme 1918*

Arnold was reported missing since March 27th and his mother appealed in the local press for any news of her son.

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

Researched by members of

Batley History Group

