Tom Hunter





Rank: - Private

Number: - 200467

Regiment: - The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (Formerly 2009) 1st Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 18/10/1918 Age: 21 years

Cemetery: - Vadencourt British Cemetery, Maissemy, Aisne, France 11.C.11

"NEVER FORGOTTEN"

Batley News, 2 Nov 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Tom was born in Croston, Lancashire on the 26th April 1897 the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Hunter nee McClelland who had married on the 24th December 1885 at St. Laurence Church, Chorley, Lancashire. He was baptised at the same church on the 6th June 1897 when the family address was given as 17, Garden Terrace and his father was a labourer.

The children were: - Mary Ann was born in 1886-1886, Martha 1887, Alice 1890, Bessie 1892, Ellen 1896-1896, Tom 1897, James 1899-1900. His mother, Elizabeth died in early March 1901. When the census was taken in 1901 Thomas and his surviving children were living as boarders at the home of Susanna Dickenson of 20, Parker Street, Chorley which was next door William McClelland.

In 1903 Thomas married Lucy Bailey and Emma 1905 who sadly died in infancy was followed by Doris 1906, Herbert 1907, Frank 1908 and Harry 1909. In 1911 the family was living at 6, Kershaw Street, Chorley and Tom was working as a cotton creeler.

On the 2nd March 1918 he married Sarah Ann Wroe at St. Thomas's Church, Batley giving his address as Field Lee Street, Chorley and his occupation as a soldier. Tom did not actually live in Batley except when he was home on leave but he was fairly well known in the town and had friends in Batley

Service Details

The 1st Battalion of the Loyal Lancashire Regiment from August 1914 came under the orders of 2nd Brigade in 1st Division until 7th February 1918 when they came under the orders of 1st Brigade in the same Division.

In 1918 they fought at the Battles of the Lys ie Battle of Estaires 9-11 April, Hazebrouck 12-15 April, Bethune 18 April, Battle of Drocourt-Queant (Arras 2-3 September)

On the Hindenburg Line: - Battles of Epehy 18 September, St. Quentin Canal 29 September – 2 October, Beaurevoir 3-6 October and the Battle of Selle 17-25 October.

It is not known exactly where Tom was wounded but it would appear that it was on the first day of this last battle. It was reported to his wife by a sister at a

Casualty Clearing Station in France that he was admitted in a collapsed condition with shell wounds in the abdomen and died the following day despite every attention which was the 18th October 1918.

His brother in laws George and Joseph Wroe had been killed in the war and Fred Wroe at the time was wounded and in a hospital in Bradford.

Tom was awarded the Territorial Force War Medal, 1914-1919, the British War Medal, 1914-18 and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley Working Men's Club and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group