Fred Idle





Rank: - Private

Number: - 204356

Regiment: - Norfolk Regiment (Formerly 301365 Staffordshire Yeomanry) 7th Battalion

Killed in Action: - 06/09/2018 Age: 19 years

Cemetery: - Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France 111.O.36

Batley News, 28 Sep 1918, 5 Oct 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Fred was born in Earlsheaton, in January 1899 the son of Lister and Mary Emma Idle nee Windle who had married on the 24th September1898 at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton. In 1901 he was living at Mount Peasant, Soothill Nether at the home of his maternal grandfather but in 1911 and after the birth of Edward 1903 and Annette who was born in Batley Carr in 1905 the family moved to live at 69, Brookroyd Lane, Batley. Lister worked as a cotton extractor(carbonizing).

Up to enlisting Fred worked for Messrs Walker and Smith, Batley and attended Birstall Temperance Hall. His mother moved to live at 15, Parker's Place, Woodwell, Batley.

Service Details

Fred enlisted at Dewsbury on the 15th June 1916 into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers stating he was 19 years and 120 days a mill hand who lived at 10, Woodwell Street, Batley. He was 5 ft. 4 inches tall and weighed 115 lbs. He was discharged on the 1st July 1916 when his true age was found.

Fred re-enlisted into the Norfolk Regiment 7th Regiment which came under orders of 35th Brigade in 12th (Eastern) Division and in 1918 took part in the Battle of Baupame, First Battle of Arras, Battle of Amiens, Battle of Albert 1918.

On 4-5 September 1918 the Division relieved 18th (Eastern) Division east of the Canal du Nord and just south of Manancourt, for an attack on Nurlu. Formidable wire defences and German counter attacks were overcome, Nurlu was taken. The German army retreated in haste for several miles, pursued by the Division which reached the line Sorel Wood – Lieramont cemetery. The advance was continued early on 8 September, capturing Guyencourt although in spite of heavy casualties. The movement halted 1000 yards west of Epehy and Pezieres, where the Division was relieved. It was now some 17 miles ahead of where the offensive had opened on 8 August. More than 1000 prisoners had been taken, as well as 17 artillery pieces and dozens of smaller weapons.

A Brownhill soldier Pte. Frank Loughead who was wounded and in hospital said: -" *Pte. Idles was killed instantly".*

Sadly, Frank died from his wounds in a Rouen hospital on the 26th September 1918.

His father, Lister Idle, had died on 19th February 1916 four days after being discharged from the Army.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group