Lister Idle



Rank: - Ex-Private/Pioneer/Sapper

Number: - 116962

Regiment: - Royal Engineers Labour Battalion

Died of ruptured aneurism at home: - 19/02/1916 Age: 45 years

Cemetery: - Batley, Yorkshire N 88

Batley News, 26 Feb 1916. Dewsbury Reporter, 26 Feb 1916

Family Details

Lister was born in Batley in c.1870 the son of Josiah and Jeanette Idle (nee Stubley who had married on the 3rd March 1851. Dewsbury born Josiah was a cloth weaver who was living in 1871 in King Street, Batley with his wife and children, John William 1862, Lilley 1866, Harry 1868 and Lister. Before 1881 the family had moved to live at Upper Road, Batley Carr, Dewsbury. Alick was born in 1875. Rock born in February 1873 died in late April 1873 aged 9 weeks. Josiah and Janet were living at 47, Bradford Road, Batley in 1891.Lister was in Vingtaine du Douet, Jersey serving as a Private in the army.

George Stubley 1852-1930, Annetta 1853 died aged 9 months in August 1854, Lister 1855- died in December 1858, Joseph 1857-March 1858, Frank 1859-December 1859, Annetta 1863 –March 1865 were the Josiah and Janette's other children.

On the 24th September 1898 Lister married Mary Emma Windle at St. Peter's Church, Earlsheaton when he gave his address as High Street Terrace, Batley Carr and being employed as a labourer.

Fred was born in 1899 in Earsheaton followed by Edward 1903 and Annetta in Batley Carr in 1905. In 1911 the family was living at 69, Brookroyd Lane, Batley and Lister was working as a carboniser (cotton extractor).

Service Details

Lister served in the South Lancashire Regiment for around twelve during the 1880/90's and served for around eight years overseas. He was a Reservist at the time of the Boer War and served in that campaign.

He enlisted into the KOYLI on the 3rd September 1914 when he lived at Batley Carr but was discharged at Hull on the 1st March 1915 after 180 days under the King's Regulations 392iii and the family had moved to 10, Woodwell Street, Batley. He was 5ft.6inches tall, weighed 122lbs., blue eyes, light brown hair and was Church of England.

Lister re-enlisted in August 1915 giving his employment as a bricklayer's labourer into the Royal Engineers Labour Corps at a payment of 3/- per day. He was sent to Belgium on the 28th August 1915 and served until the 3rd November

when he was sent back to England. He was discharged on the 15th February 1916, being no longer fit for war service. He died four days later.

At his inquest his wife said that he had been a fettler and a labourer before joining the Army. He had been in good health and when in the Army saw service in India and served throughout the South African War without a wound. He was still in good health and worked in a mill until the start of the war when he joined a Reserve Battalion but was discharged because the authorities said he had bronchitis. He resumed work but was quite well and wanted to re-enlist in August 1915. He was keen to be a soldier and his mind was there even when he was at home. In Belgium he was told there was a problem with a vein near his heart and if it burst, he could die. It was not known when the problem started but he may have strained himself whilst digging in Belgium because he was passed fit to serve only a few weeks previously.

His son Fred was killed in action on the 16th September 1918.

Lister 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