Frank Ineson







Rank: - L/Cpl

Number: - 37654

Regiment: - York and Lancaster 2nd Battalion (formerly 14th Bn. and 7th Bn.)

Missing, presumed killed in action: - 21st March 1918 aged 20

Cemetery: - Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, Pas-de-Calais, France V1.F.39

Batley News, 11 May 1918

Family Details

Frank was born in Batley in c. 1898 the youngest surviving child of Ebenezer Ineson and his wife Emma (nee Lee). The couple had married at Mirfield on 24th January 1880. Amy was born in 1880 and the family was living in King Street, Batley when the 1881 census was taken. Gertrude followed in 1883, Beatrice 1885-1888, Percy (1888) and Doris May in 1890. In 1891 the family was still living in King Street and Ebenezer was employed as a warehouseman.

Joseph Jackson was born in 1893 followed by Mary Ellen in 1895, then Frank c 1898 followed by triplets who were born in March 1900, Ruth who died aged 2 days George White died aged 2 days and Thomas Hawkyard who died aged 1 day when the family was living at 1, Wellington Street, Batley .

At some time in the 1890's Ebenezer became a photographer and moved to Wellington Street, Batley.

Ebenezer died in April 1900.

In 1901 the family was living at 18, Cross Park Street, Batley and Emma was working as a dressmaker, Gertrude was a tailoress and the other children were still at school. Mary Lee Frank's maternal grandmother also lived with them.

The 1911 census states that there had been eleven children born alive but only seven were still living. The family had moved to live in a four roomed house in Bridge Street. His grandmother died in 1915.

Frank attended Park Road Council School and worked in Mr. W. Jubb's grocery shop at Mount Pleasant before enlisting.

Service Details

The 14th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment was also known as 2nd Barnsley Pals. The 7th Battalion was a Pioneer battalion. Frank's records have not survived but it appears from reports that he suffered from impetigo aged 19 years in March 1917 when he had been serving for six months.

Frank at some stage he joined the 2nd Battalion who were part of 16th Brigade in 6th Division.

The Division was at Lagnicourt at the end of February 1918.

On the morning of the 21st March 1918 the Germans went on the offensive and the War Diaries show that at 4.50am with an exceedingly heavy barrage on Lagnicourt Trench and the Sunken Road they used gas shells and H.E which hampered the battalion.

A confidential report states that the Division on the 21st were as follows: -

"D" Company was in the front line from Cornhill- Wakefield with one platoon in York support.

"C" Company in Leeds Reserve on either side of Dun? Avenue

"A" and "B" Companies in Sunken Road.

At 5am the German barrage commenced but was put down extremely heavily on Lagnicourt Trench. At 7 30 am a heavy barrage was put on the front line which lasted until 8.30 am. The barrage killed or wounded practically the whole of the Front line only 15 other ranks survived. The enemy continued advancing to the reserve lines and at 10.50 am it was decided to withdraw because they did not have sufficient men. The success of the enemy was attributed to: -

Extremely heavy barrage. Large number he employed. Lack of training in open warfare of the British. The tactics of the enemy in breaking in on certain fronts and then spreading outwards and then taking the defences in flank and rear. The lack of counter attacks from behind at crucial times. The men, though game to fight were tired from the enormous amount of work they had been called upon to do.

Buissy was reached by the Third Army on 2nd September 1918 after the storming of the Drocourt-Queant line and was evacuated by the Germans on the following day.

Frank's mother who lived at 103, Bradford Road, Batley appealed in the Batley News because no news of him had been received almost two months after the attack on 21st March.

Queant Cemetery was made by the 2nd and 57th Casualty Clearing Stations in October and November 1918 but was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when

graves were brought in from the smaller burial grounds in the area. It is recorded that 57 men were buried at Queant Road who died on 21st March 1918. Frank was identified by his disc.

Frank is remembered with Honour at Queant Road, Military Cemetery, Zion Methodist Church, Batley and Batley War Memorial.

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group