Herbert Ineson





Rank: - Private

Number: - 17/1012

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 17th Battalion (Leeds Bantams)

Killed in Action: - 30th July 1916 aged 18 years

Cemetery: - Caterpillar Valley, Longueval, France. XX1. B.7

Batley Reporter, 11 Aug 1916. Batley News, 19 Aug 1916 (photo), 2 Sep 1916 (photo)

Family Details

Herbert was born in 1897 in Batley the son of Emma Ineson who was born in Hanging Heaton.

In 1901 they are living at the home of widower, Joseph Brook Avison at Back Russell Street, Batley with her other children Edith Louisa 1890, Frederick 1895 Harry 1900 who died in Jan 1902 aged 20 months, as boarders.

Annie Avison Ineson was born in 1893 and died in Nov 1895.

Joseph Brook Avison died in March 1905 aged 32 years.

Herbert attended Park Road School and was well known in Carlinghow.

Before 1911 Emma had moved to a two roomed home at 5 yard 6, Birch Street, Carlinghow with Edith, Frederick and Herbert. She was working as a feeder at a woollen mill and 13-year-old Herbert was working as a skip gatherer.

Herbert later went to work at Howley Park Colliery as a hurrier before he enlisted aged 17 years. He had moved with his family to live at Back Birch Street, Batley.

Service Details

Herbert enlisted at Leeds when he was only seventeen years old. He joined the 17th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment which was a bantam battalion which from June 1915 came under the command of 106th Brigade in 35th Division. The Division was largely comprised of locally raised units known as “Bantams”, manned by troops who were under the normal regulation minimum height of 5 feet 3 inches.

After early training near home, the units concentrated in June 1915 in North Yorkshire. Divisional HQ was at Masham and units were at Roomer Common, Marfield, Fearby and Masham. In August 1915 the Division moved to Salisbury Plain, HQ being set up at Marlborough. Over the next few weeks moves were made to Chiseldon and Cholderton. In late 1915 orders were received to kit for a move to Egypt but this was soon rescinded.

They landed at Le Havre on 1st February 1916 and concentrated at first around the St.Omer area.

Later that year they took part in the Battle of Bazentin Ridge (14th -17th July) followed by the fighting for Arrow Head Copse and Maltz Horn Farm and it was probably in this battle that Herbert was killed in action.

The first intimation of Herbert's death came from Lieut. W. W. Stead, Officer Commanding Herbert's Company, who wrote: -

"It is my unfortunate duty to have to inform you that 1010 Private H. Ineson was killed in the big battle on July 30th. Our Battalion was the first of the Bantams in action, and the men covered themselves with glory, earning the unstinting praise of the General. It was a heart-breaking task when I called the roll the following morning. Two of my Officers were wounded and altogether we lost 10 officers in two days and many men. I can assure you that your boy died instantaneously. He was a good soldier and always did his duty."

Although in the above letter a wrong number is given, Private Ineson being 1012 the sad news was confirmed when "One of His Comrades in the Platoon" wrote:-

"I am forwarding you a letter which you sent to your son Herbert. I am sorry to inform you he was killed on July 30th about 5.30 in the morning. He suffered no pain, as he was killed instantly. We were all sorry to lose him as he was a nice lad and liked by everyone in the platoon. We had only just gone into action when he was knocked down by a shell. All the boys send their sympathy."

A fortnight later she received official confirmation from the War Office that he was killed on that date, and sympathy from the King and Queen was also expressed.

At this time his brother Stoker Frederick Ineson, had been in the Navy nearly three years and had taken part in the battle for the Falkland Islands.

Herbert was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and is remembered with Honour at Cross Bank Wesleyan Chapel, Batley War Memorial and Caterpillar Valley, France.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group