James Walker Ineson







Rank: - 2nd Lt.

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry 18th Battalion (formerly Private Welsh Fusiliers) (previously 28183 64 Btn Training Reserve) (previously Leeds University O.T.C.)

Killed in Action: - 18th May 1917 aged 23

Cemetery: - Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent- Blagny 1.K.5.

"NON SIBI SED OMN IBU"

Batley News, 26 May 1917 (photo), 2 Jun 1917

Family Details

James Walker was born in Batley on the 24th June 1894 the son of Frederick and Alice Ineson (nee Walker). He was baptised at the Taylor Street Chapel (Broomhill) on the 21st November 1894 when his parents were living at Warwick Road, Batley. His older siblings were Arthur (1883), Mary Ethel (1885), Percy (1889), and William Brooke (1892). The couple had married in 1881. Frederick was a rag merchant.

Alec was born in April 1896 followed by Alice May (1899), and Frederick Arnold in 1902. Sadly, Alice died at Grewelthorpe in May 1905 and in 1910 James' father, Frederick married Constance Helena Fryer.

The 1911 census shows that Frederick was staying or living at Lake House, Grewelthorpe with Mary Ethel and Frederick Arnold and a domestic general servant. Lake House was a seven roomed residence. His wife Constance was also living in a seven roomed residence at 1, Bath Street, Batley with her step children, Percy, William Brooke, James Walker and a servant.

James was actively involved with Broomhill United Methodist Church and later with Zion being a teacher in the Sunday school.

James was educated at Ackworth School as were most of his siblings and was later, with his father, engaged in the business of Messrs. W. Brooke, woollen rag merchants, Bradford Road, Batley. At the time of his death Frederick was Chairman of Batley Continuation and Technical Schools Committee.

He was engaged to be married to Miss Ella Blakeley daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Blakeley of Alfred Street, Mount Pleasant, Batley.

Service Details

James William joined the army on October 1915 having previously been in the Leeds University OTC. At first, he was a Private in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers but in late 1916 was transferred to the Gaile's Cadet Corps, Ayrshire. He obtained a commission in the Durham Light Infantry in February 1917 and a short time later left for France. He had been at the Front about 10 weeks when he was killed. His last letter home was to thank them for a gift of cigarettes which he had shared with his men.

Notice of his death arrived by telegram from the War Office on the Tuesday following. This was followed by a letter from Lt. Colonel L.E. Cheyne D.L.I.

"*I have the sad duty of writing to you of your son's casualty. He had not been long in the Battalion and was growing into a fine soldier. He had no sense of fear at all; indeed, his contempt of danger was almost foolhardy. We had just made an attack on some German trenches near ----on the night 17-18th in which your son had just led his platoon up carrying wire, water, bombs etc. up to the troops who had captured the trench. Incidentally he brought back valuable information of the situation with him to the supports in line. Later in the night, just as daylight broke, he went out to bring in a man who was suffering temporarily from shell shock and needlessly exposing himself. Lieut. Ineson had almost reached our lines when he was shot in the head. His death was instantaneous and painless. Please accept the deep sympathy of myself, the officers of the Battalion and the men of his Company. He is a loss to the Battalion and was a genuine example for the men of a really brave sense of duty. This is a sad war where so many promising young fellows go down. May the successful conclusion come soon? But I hope our losses will only steel England's determination to see it right through now, instead of leaving it all to be done over again by the next generation."*

Second-Lieut. H.E. Kitchen D.S.O. wrote to his parents: -

"It is with some consolation to you to know that your beloved son sacrificed his life in order to save that of a comrade who unconsciously was exposing himself to danger. He actually got the man to a place of safety and was about to enter the trench himself when he was hit by a sniper. I can assure you he suffered no pain, and death came upon him instantly. He was a fine officer, and beloved by all who met him- -not only by his platoon but by the whole Company and his loss is deeply regretted by us all. His cheery disposition at all times whether in or out of danger won for him the respect and admiration of his brother officers and other ranks. He lies at rest in a small British cemetery beside other heroes who have given their all for their country in its hour of need. We extend to you our sympathy in this your great loss, and may the thought that he gave his life for another help you to bear your sorrow bravely."

Second-Lieut. H E. Raine, in a letter to Miss Ella Blakeley wrote: -

"The thought that he has done so well and nobly gave his life for a comrade, will I know, help you to bear the pain and anguish during your hours of trial and I pray you will strive to bear up and be brave. My brother officers and all ranks tender to you their deepest sympathy and to these words I too, tender my poor words of comfort."

At the time of his death his brother William R.F.A. had been in France for over two years, Alec R.N. had been with the Sick Bay Reserves since July 915 and was in Russian waters, Arthur was engaged on munitions work at Messrs. Vickers Ltd. Barrow in Furness and Platoon Sergeant Percy of the Batley Volunteers was the only brother still at home.

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

He is remembered with Honour at Zion Methodist Church, Batley, Broomhill Methodist Church (Taylor Street), Batley, Warwick Road School Diary and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group