George Alfred Johnson M.M.







Rank: - Sergeant

Number: - R/7281

Regiment: - King's Royal Rifle Corps 2nd Battalion

Died of Wounds, sustained head wound on 26 Sep 1916: - 29th September 1916

Cemetery: - Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension 111.B.1

Batley News, 14 Oct 1916 (photo). Military Medal listed in London Gazette 9 Dec 1916.

Family Details

George Alfred was born in Dewsbury on the 12th August 1894, the eldest son of Horbury born, Robert Brearley Johnson and Mary Ellen Johnson nee Wardman who had married on the 18th November 1892 at St. John's Church, Dewsbury. He was baptised at St. John's on Christmas Day 1894 when his parents were living at Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury and his father was employed as a card cleaner.

Before 1901 and with the additions of Thomas William 1897 and Albert Edward 1900 the family had moved to live at 59, Wentley Street, Dewsbury and his father, Robert, gave his occupation as a blanket carding overlooker. Edith Elizabeth was born in 1904.

When the 1911 census was taken the family was living at 14, School Lane, Dewsbury Moor and with them was niece Jane Edith Tyler aged 4 years. George Alfred was working as a grocer's assistant. Nelly was born in 1912.

George Alfred was connected with St. John's Church, Dewsbury Moor and was a member of their choir for many years. He was employed at the Maypole Dairy Co. at their Batley Branch.

Service Details

George Alfred enlisted at Winchester on the 17thNovember 1914 and was posted on the 8th December 1914 and appointed a Lance Corporal on the 23rd February 1915. He was posted again on the 19th October 1915 to go to France with the British Expeditionary Force. On the 3rd November 1915 he was promoted to Corporal and to Sergeant on the 3rd August 1916.

In 1916 his Division took part in: -

The Battle of Albert (1-13 July)
The Battle of Bazentin (14-17 July)
The Battle of Pozieres (23 July-3 September)
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September)
The Battle of Morval (25-28 September)

George Alfred received a bullet wound in the head on the 26th September and he died at 1/1 Main Casualty Clearing Station, France on September 29th 1916.

George Alfred was awarded the Military Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. John's Church, Dewsbury Moor and Batley and Dewsbury War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group