Leonard Kendrick





Rank: - Private

Number: - 1629

Regiment: - Prince of Wales's Volunteers **(**South Lancashire) Regiment 7th Bn (formerly 2nd Bn)

Killed in Action: - 9th July 1916 aged 20 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 7A and 7 B.

Batley Reporter, 4 Aug 1916 (photo

Family Details

Leonard was born in Hunslet, Leeds in c. October 1896 the son of Thomas James and Mary Eliza Kendrick nee Wortley and was baptised on the 28th October 1896 at St. Peter's Church, Hunslet Moor. His father who came from Motherwell, Scotland gave his occupation as a forgeman living at 9, Burton Row, Hunslet.

Thomas had married Mary Eliza Wortley at Leeds Parish Church on 21st November 1875.

James was born in 1876 followed by Henry 1878, Arthur 1879, Lily 1880-1881, Lily baptised Hunslet Moor 28th December 1892, Thomas 1882, Samuel 1884 Eliza 1886 born in Warrington Eliza 1889 Hunslet

There seems to be a large gap before Eliza was baptised 20th March 1889 when the address given was 9, Burton Row, Hunslet. Albert was born in 16th December 1890, Lily baptised 28th December 1892, followed by Violet who was baptised 7th November 1894, Leonard, Isabella 9/10/1900 and Clifford 1902 who were both born in Rotherham.

Leonard went to school at Thornhill Lees and later worked at the glasshouse, which would have been Kilner's.

Mary Eliza died in the Dewsbury area in 1909 and in 1911 Thomas James was living at 21, Queen Street, Thornhill Lees with his three youngest children and a housekeeper, Margaret Lodge. He was working as a puddler at an iron works. Fourteen-year-old Leonard was working as a glass maker probably at Kilner's. He later went to St. Helen's and enlisted in Warrington. At some point he was living at Kilpin Hill, Batley.

Service Details

Leonard disembarked on the 21st September 1914 and at first he was in the 2nd Battalion who were part of 7th Brigade in 3rd Division and in 1914 fought at: -

The Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, including the Rearguard action of Solesmes
The Battle of Le Cateau
The Battle of the Marne

The Battle of the Aisne including participation in the Actions on the Aisne heights
The Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914
First Battle of Ypres

In 1915 they took part in Winter Operations 1914-15
The First Attack on Bellewaarde
The Actions of Hooge
The Second Attack on Bellewaarde (in support of the opening attack in the Battle of Loos).

However, Leonard at some stage changed to the 7th Battalion but his records have not survived and it is not known when this occurred.

The 7th Battalion did not go to France until 18th July 1915 and were part of 56th Brigade in 19th (Western) Division.

In 1915 they took part in the Action of Pietre, and supporting diversionary action during the Battle of Loos. In 1916 they fought at the Battle of Albert in which the Division captured La Boisselle (1st -13th July)

Captain J.D. Ritson of the South Lancashire Regiment wrote to his father: -

"It is with deepest regret I have to inform you of the death of Private L. Kendrick, who was killed in action on July 8th and died a soldier's death. He was a brave fellow, and his death was a great sorrow to us all. Please allow me to convey to you my deepest sympathy and that of the whole company in your sad bereavement."

His chum Private John J. Balmer wrote: -

"I cannot speak too highly of his courage in the field. He was always amongst the volunteers for any dangerous tasks and was held in high esteem by the other boys of the platoon. Though it is hard to lose a good and cheery chum, it is consoling to think that he passed away whilst plodding the path of duty."

On the 2nd July they had been at RAILWAY CUTTING south west of Albert

His father at this time lived at Bury Square, Thornhill Lees

His brother Sergeant Albert Kendrick of the R.F.A. was also serving in France.

Leonard was awarded the 1914 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley War Memorial and Dewsbury War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group