Thomas Edward Kershaw





Rank: - Private

Number: - TF/260042

Regiment: - Middlesex Regiment (Formerly 205090 KOYLI) 1/8th Battalion

Killed in Action, shot during an advance: - 16/08/1917 Age: 28 years

Memorial: - Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 113 to 115

Batley News, 1 Sep 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Thomas Edward was born in Batley on the 31st January 1889 the son of Ramsden and Jane Ann Kershaw nee Hirst. In 1891 he was living with his parents in Lady Ann Road, Batley and Liversedge born Ramsden was employed as a boot maker. They had married at St. Thomas's Church, Batley on 4th August 1888.

May was born in November 1891 followed by Arnold March 1892 and Edgar December 1896. Sadly, Jane Ann died in July 1898 and it would appear from the burial records that a child was buried with her who had lived for several minutes.

Ramsden married Florence Hirst at St. Michael's Church, Buslingthorpe, Leeds on the 28th August 1899.

In 1901 the family was living in Clutton Street, Soothill. Thomas Edward attended Mill Lane Council School and sang as a lad in St. Luke's Church choir, later developing an alto voice which had much promise. He was a member of Hanging Heaton Parish Church, Leeds Parish Church, and Dewsbury Parish Church choirs.

After leaving school Thomas went to work with his father, who had a shop in Soothill Lane, as a boot and shoemaker. They opened a shop in Ashworth Road, Dewsbury which Thomas was in charge. Before 1911 the family had moved from Clutton Street to nearby Oak Dene, Soothill Lane, Batley.

On 11th September 1911 he married Florence Parkin at St. Paul's Church, Hanging Heaton.

Ramsden was born in 1912-1912 followed by Eric in 1914. The family lived at 9, Carr Street, Mill Lane, Hanging Heaton.

Service Details

Thomas Edward enlisted on March 7th 1917 into the K.O.Y.L.I. Whilst in training he organised a concert party of soldier vocalists who often provided enjoyable entertainment.

He went to France in June 1917 and was transferred to the Middlesex Regiment. Thomas had been in France for about six weeks before he was sent into the trenches for the Battle of Langemarck (16 – 17 August) near Ypres.

A “pal” wrote to tell his wife that he was wounded but an officer wrote on the following day who said: -

“It is with deepest regret I write to inform you your husband was killed in action on August 16th. We attacked soon after dawn and your husband was hit before we reached our objective. I did not see him drop, but I am told by his chums that he was hit in the groin and died soon after thus being spared the pain of waiting in No Man’s Land, lingering as some of our boys did, for hours. May I offer my personal sympathy as well as that of his chums in the Middlesex “Die Hards” in your terrible bereavement? Perhaps I might add, how better can an Englishman die than facing the enemy in the protection of the weak?”

His identity disc was picked up near Ypres and sent to his home by the War Office on October 28th 1917.

At the time of his death his brother Edgar was in France serving with the R.A.M.C. and Arnold was with the A.O.C.

Thomas Edward was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at St. Paul’s Church, Hanging Heaton, Hanging Heaton War Memorial and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group