Fred Knowles



Rank: - Private

Number: - 82571

Regiment: - Durham Light Infantry 20th Battalion

Died of Wounds: - 12/09/1918 Age: 19 years

Cemetery: - Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France
111.E.38

Family Details

Fred was born in 1899 in Batley the son of Ernest Albert and Jane Ann Knowles nee Harrison who had married on the 12th March 1898 at Dewsbury Parish Church. In 1901 Ernest, who was a woollen piecener, Jane, a weaver and Fred were living at 13, Back Jacob Street, Batley. Sadly, his father, Ernest Albert died in July 1901 and his mother married Joseph Francis Joyce in 1905.

Joseph Joyce was a rag grinder who came from Staleybridge and in 1911 both he and Jane Ann who was also working as a weaver were living at 25, Jagger's Yard, Common-side, Hanging Heaton in a one roomed home.

William Edward was born in 1912. Joseph Francis died in April 1915 when the family was living at 3, Court 2, King Street, Batley Carr and Jane Ann was left to bring up her two sons. She lived until 1951 when she died aged 72 years.

Service Details

It is not known when Fred enlisted or actually where he was wounded, we have to date not found any newspaper reports.

On 7 November 1917 the Division was notified that it was to be transferred to Italy. The move (by train) began five days later and by 18 November all units had concentrated north- west of Mantua. The Division took over a sector of front line behind the River Piave, north- west of Treviso, between 30 November and early on 2 December.

On 28 February 1918 the Division concentrated in Campo San Piero, preparatory to returning to France. By 9 March it had completed concentration near Doullens and Mondicourt.

The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March)
The Battle of Bapaume (24-25 March)
The Battle of Arras (28 March)
which were phases of the First Battles of the Somme 1918
The Battles of the Lys (9- 29 April)
The Advance in Flanders (18 August -6 Sept)

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

He is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group