Charles Laird





Rank: - Private

Number: - 34071

Regiment: - Lincolnshire Regiment (Transferred to (26655) 45th Coy. Labour Corps)

Killed in Action: - 21/03/1918 Age: 33 years

Memorial: - Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France Panel 94

Batley News, 4 May 1918 (photo)

Family Details

Charles was born in Berwick-on-Tweed in c.1884 the son of Charles and Jessie Mary Laird nee Young who had married on the 8th June 1880, registered Glasgow. Eliza Livingstone was born in 1881 followed by Janet Tennent 1882, Charles, Georgina 1886 in Batley, James Arthur 1888 in Scotland, Agnes Black 1889 in Batley died aged 10 months in 1890, William 1891-1892aged 6 months, Elizabeth 1893-1895 aged 2 years, Mary Stewart 1894-1905, Christina 1895-1895aged 1 day, Alexander Wilson 1896, Robert Cunningham 1898-1903, Eleanor Polson 1902-1902 aged 14 weeks.

In 1891 Charles and his family were living at 25, Hume Street, Batley and his father was working as coal miner hewer. Only two rooms were inhabited but before 1901 the family had moved to live in four rooms at 56, Norfolk Street, Batley. His father died on November 1904. Charles had a lifelong connection with the Mount Pleasant Gospel Hall and was a member of Charles Laird sub-division of the Sons of Temperance which was named after his father, who was a prominent member of the Order.

In 1910 he married Ethel Craig and the couple lived with his mother and brothers at West Park Road, Healey, Batley before moving to 14, Upper North Street, Batley. Charles was born on the 24th June 1912. Before he enlisted Charles worked as a willyer for Messrs J.B. & W. Hirst, Lady Ann Mills, Batley.

Service Details

Charles commenced his military service on March 2nd 1917 and went to France 10 days later. Official news arrived for his wife that he had been killed by a shell on March 21st 1918 whilst on duty with a working party and was buried in a cemetery near his camp. A Lieutenant expressed sympathy on behalf of his comrades saying, *"He was respected by all the men and his loss is felt very much."*

Sadly, Jessie Mary had lost eight children and her husband before her death in April 1921.Chares was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at the Sons of Temperance, Purlwell Wesleyan Church and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group