Patrick Lang





Rank: - Private

Number: - 16/1626

Regiment: - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 12th Battalion (Bradford Pals)

Killed in Action. Killed by a direct hit from a Whizz-Bang: - 14th July 1916 aged 19 years

Memorial: - Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 2 A 2 C and 2 D.

Batley News, 19 Aug 1916

Family Details

Patrick was born in Staincliffe on 7th January 1897 the son of James and Mary Lang nee Miskill of Bunkers Lane, Staincliffe.

In 1901 he and his parents with siblings John 1898, Thomas 1899 and Martin 1901 were living at 51, Common Road, Staincliffe.

Thomas and Martin sadly died in March 1902 aged 2 years and 11 months and 17 months respectively. Willie was born in 1907 but sadly died aged 10 weeks in February 1908.

Patrick attended St. Patrick's Day School, Heckmondwike and also the Roman Catholic Church.

For four years Patrick was employed at the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway goods warehouse at Dewsbury but at the time he enlisted he was employed in a similar capacity at Heckmondwike.

His father James died in December 1917 and his mother Mary in November 1922.

Service Details

Patrick enlisted at Bradford on Bank Holiday in early August 1915 and went across the English Channel on Good Friday 1916. The Bradford Pals at this time was attached to 9th Brigade in 3rd Division.

In March and April 1916, the battalion took part in the Actions of the Bluff and St Eloi Craters near Ypres which were localised diversionary operations.

The Battle of Albert 1st July-13th July

By 13 July the British advance had taken it to a point where it was now facing the second German defensive system. A well planned and novel night attack on 14 July took British troops through that system in the area of Bazentin. There was a fleeting but lost opportunity to capture High Wood beyond it.
The Battle of Bazentin commenced on the 14th July and lasted until the 17th during which the Division helped capture Longueval.

Private H. McClusky wrote: -

"*It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you of your dear sons death which occurred on 14th July. I am sure it hurts me to have to break such news, but I happened to be with him at the time and I think it my duty to do so. He died a brave death fighting*

for right and freedom. I might tell you that he was wounded before he went into the advance but he was a brave soldier and would not give in until he was forced to do so. He was hit by a German "whiz-bang" in lower part of the body. He was a willing and good lad and I can tell you all the lads in the section miss him very greatly and all join with me in sending our deepest sympathy. I hope God will give you sufficient strength to bear the burden of sorrow which your great loss has caused you. May he rest in peace."

Second Lieut. Arnold W. Sewell wrote a letter dated 21st July: -

"I feel I must just send you a line to inform you that your son has been killed. I am his platoon commander and miss him very much. A better lad no one could wish for. He always worked so well and was always smiling. He was one of the very best. His was a glorious death and I know you must feel proud of him in the midst of your grief. He was wounded sufficiently to justify him going back to the dressing station, but instead he kept on, thus ranking him amongst the bravest. It may be of some comfort to you to know that he was killed instantly and was in no pain. Please accept my sincere sympathy in your sorrow."

Another P Lang (second cousin) who also lived at the same address was wounded in the great push. He had previously been in the services and spent eight years in India. He re-joined at the outbreak of war into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was wounded four times before June 1916 but was going back to serve when the family heard about the death of Patrick.

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

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



Researched by members of
Batley History Group